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NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF SALT TREATIES

PY210112 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Jun 79 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "The SALT Treaties"]

[Text] The SALT II treaty signed on Monday in Vienna by Presidents Carter and Brezhnev stands as a new and important landmark along the path of detente between the two superpowers. By establishing a limit to the number of missiles and the number of multiple warheads and by allowing each party to develop only one new system of nuclear weapons, certainly a contribution has been made to decelerating the feverish race which led to the stockpiling of arsenals capable of destroying all civilization on the planet many times over. The conditions laid down for SALT II show that there is a will to curb proliferation.

SALT II will surely be subject to strong criticism in the U.S. Senate. The criticism will stem partly from different interpretations of what nuclear parity means, and these different interpretations are possible because they depend on the evaluation of quite diverse factors in the equation to come up with a value judgment. But the most obvious obstacle will certainly be posed by the belief of many U.S. congressmen that SALT treaties make no sense if they do not commit the Soviet Union to relinquishing its expansionist policy in secondary areas on the world chessboard. Another argument brought up is that the Moscow government is compelled to use the decade of the eighties to reinforce its capacity in the strategic field since international tendencies in Western countries (Europe, the United States and Japan) and the PRC are for an encirclement of the Soviet Union.

These ideas smack of the theory of contention which says that the Soviet Union, if pushed to an extreme, would have to adopt a policy of aggression to avoid being stifled. These ideas do not seem to fit reality. The structure of the present-day world is mounted on two poles for the simple reason that only the two superpowers are capable of mutual defeat in an atomic confrontation, no matter who takes the initiative. The SALT treaties are the result of mutual concessions in search of some sort of balance which is not necessarily unstable. The balance is established by the capacity of reciprocal retaliation, not by development of the nuclear arsenal still possible under the treaties. Two different arenas of confrontation present themselves: the strategic arena in which to depart from the course of coexistence would be tantamount to a "suicidal pact," and the arena of regional conflicts which can result in gains or losses for one or the other superpower with more or less serious consequences, but without the risk of a nuclear holocaust.

If this way of thinking is correct, the SALT treaties are simply the explicit recognition of a de facto situation. This recognition is the basis for negotiations on any secondary conflict in which a superpower might be involved, thus avoiding placing the adversary in a situation in which it may consider its very existence seriously threatened. The 1962 missile crisis showed clearly that some limits cannot be trespassed with impunity, and the Vietnam war is a lesson in the impossibility of escalating a limited conflict to the point of employing tactical nuclear weapons because this could lead to an entanglement of worldwide proportions.

It is to be presumed, therefore, that both the United States and the Soviet Union will continue with nuclear programs to develop ever more sophisticated weapons which will have to be reciprocally accepted. Nuclear weapon limitation is insured precisely by that competitive parity which in turn insures the capacity of mutual deterrence, and which is paradoxically the driving force of disarmament, no matter how long it takes to achieve the outright elimination of nuclear arsenals.

The situation at hand is a dynamic one in which not much can be said about the forms of confrontation, but in which it can certainly be said that the presence of real factors are conducive to dialog, negotiation and peaceful competition. In this sense, the expectation of winning by any of the two superpowers would be as unrealistic and dangerous as a defeatist attitude.

If the impossibility of a conflict makes coexistence mandatory, this does not mean that the confrontation will cease but that it will take place in a peaceful arena. This fact has exceptional importance for the underdeveloped countries, whether they have an affinity to one side or the other or to neither, because it cannot permit the persistence of extreme disparities between the industrial and nonindustrial worlds to avoid explosions such as those which took place in the Soviet domain (Hungary and Czechoslovakia) or in the Western area (Cuba). The problem of disparities in degrees of development--in other words, the problem of national assertion--moves definitively to a place of foremost priority. The case of Iran illustrates a special case in which U.S. predominance was faulted by the lack of harmonious development, social integration and effective democracy in a country considered to be a "key" in its region.

It is therefore appropriate to conclude that the SALT treaties, beyond their technical complexities, touch on problems which are bound to have broad consequences in the future.

GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY SCORED AT ILO SESSION

PY200306 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1610 GMT 19 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jun (NA)--The leader of the Argentine workers delegation at the meeting of the International Labor Organization (ILO), Alberto Triaca, reported at this forum in Geneva that "after being the victim of armed terrorist attacks, our country has become the victim of still another type of aggression: economic terrorism." In his speech, released here today by union sources, Triaca indicated that the government's economic program "involves much more than it says. It is the instrument of a political project which is incapable of gaining power through legitimate channels and is obviously seeking to attain this objective through succession."

Triaca charged that there is "an attempt at changing the Argentine social system" and indicated that "it is obvious this strategy has only one worthy adversary: the organized union movement." He said: "This is why disruption is being sought. This is the reason for drawing up laws to confiscate union assets and to disrupt workers' unity, laws of a disruptive and interventionist nature which eliminate the rights and guarantees of our organization and make a dead letter of the international labor accords which guarantee union freedom and the right of association." Triaca said: "In sum, the Argentine workers movement is the target on an offensive which involves amendments of the professional associations law aimed at smashing the strength of the workers."

He continued: "In practice, pressures are exerted on the law on collective bargaining, thus precluding the legitimate protection of the workers' salaries and at the same time placing Argentine workers among the worst paid in the world. Finally," he said, "there is an attempt at state intervention in the law on social works, the same law which allowed the workers to improve their standards of living."

Triaca reaffirmed the representative nature of the Argentine workers delegation and said: "Our basic objective is the unity of the workers movement." He emphasized that "in view of this situation, of this contingency experienced by the Argentine workers movement, we merely wish to convey the 10 basic requirements which will allow us to hope that our country is still seeking to follow the path of humanism."

The 10 requirements mentioned by Triaca in his speech contain the following: "full validity" of the laws dealing with professional associations, social works and collective bargaining, as well as the 87th and 98th international accords on union freedom without any government interference, the end of interventions in the General Labor Confederation (CGT) and the unions, and the immediate normalization of these unions in accordance with their own regulations"; abrogation of all laws which "prevent or hinder the free exercise of union activities"; immediate release of all union leaders arrested for engaging in union activities; "immediate concellation of any plan aimed at subordinating man to the goals of a profit economy"; abrogation of the dismissal law; and the full validity of the national constitution.

VIDELA DENOUNCES SUBVERSIVE 'MANEUVER' TO ISOLATE COUNTRY

PA180030 Paris AFP in Spanish 1827 GMT 17 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Jun (AFP)--Today, President Gen Jorge Videla announced here a maneuver to isolate Argentina from the concert of nations.

During a news conference at the close of Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez's visit to Argentina, Videla said that subversive terrorism is looking for the military government's mistakes in order to concentrate its political efforts and at the same time promote the country's isolation.

Argentina does not have a real problem with terrorism, Videla said. He added that this is a country of 25 million happy people who live in peace and mutually and fraternally love each other. This is the real Argentina, he said.

Regarding the country's economy, Videla admitted that industry has had its ups and downs and that there is one worrisome factor, inflation, which we have been unable to control. He stressed, however, that it is worth noting that we enjoy a high standard of living in this country. Our employment situation is satisfactory, salaries are conservative but fair and the economy is obviously developing.

Videla reiterated his government's goal of restoring democracy in Argentina on a representative, republican and federal basis according to the constitution. However, he added that it must also be strong, stable and modern.

In this sense, he said that the military government has completed the process of establishing order and must now perform a purely political function, which does not mean calling elections the next day or presuppose an electoral timetable.

According to Videla, this political stage consists of providing an intriguing political option so that both civilians and military, limited only by their qualifications, capacity and honesty, may help prepare the rules that will make it possible to establish a democratic system.

In pursuit of that objective, Videla said, the armed forces will, in due time, present a program to the citizens, to be supported and enriched by means of discussion.

Videla reaffirmed the need for political parties with new attitudes, objectives, ideas and men, to build the democracy to which his country aspires.

Regarding Latin American integration, Videla said that, in his opinion, the direction of the government should be reversed. So far, it has progressed from the whole to the parts, while it should now proceed from the parts to the whole.

In this regard, he noted the virtues of the Andean Pact, which is moving toward regional integration by means of agreements which can later be expanded to encompass the entire continent. Finally, Videla said that it is possible for Peru and Argentina to develop an extensive, almost unlimited program of cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

MARTINEZ DE HOZ CALLS FOR JOINT ANTI-INFLATION EFFORT

PY191335 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1740 GMT 18 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Jun (TELAM)--Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz reasserted today that the economic guidelines will be maintained and that "people should stop playing the inflation game, should stop betting that there will be a devaluation and start changing their attitude and that of their suppliers and make a joint effort with all of us."

The economy minister noted: "In this struggle against inflation we need both the government and the private sector to make a joint effort to help the government establish guidelines and thus achieve a decrease in costs and domestic prices and not the contrary.

In a statement made on a radio program, the economy minister noted that those tariff guidelines which apply to private enterprises also apply to public enterprises. Martinez de Hoz said that public utility enterprises, which are decreasing their tariff readjustments, must adjust their line of action to these guidelines, because otherwise they will not have access to the treasury or to credit other than that which they have been granted under those guidelines. He added that he was aware that there are people who believe that the economic guidelines will be changed by the end of the year and who, as a result, are already speculating on whether there will be a devaluation or a greater monetary expansion.

VIOLA SAYS POLITICAL SECTORS HAVE NOT DISRUPTED PROCESS

PY200327 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0157 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpt] Comodoro Rivadavia, 19 Jun (NA)--Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola stated during a press conference held here today: " I believe that political sectors have exercised a moderating influence during the current process," adding that "generally speaking, the process has not been disrupted by the actions of political sectors." Viola said: "It is true that at some time some politicians might have created disturbances, but so far political sectors in general have not seriously disrupted the development of the process."

The commander in chief of the army made these statements during a press conference held at the 9th Infantry Brigade after an inspection tour of several units headquartered in this city which he made together with the 5th Corps commander, Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero.

CHIEF OF STAFF ADVISES POLITICAL LEADERS TO BE SILENT

PY200312 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1638 GMT 19 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jun (NA)--The army chief of staff, Maj Gen Guillermo Suarez Mason, today advised political leaders "to maintain a respectful silence" until the proposal being prepared by the army is known, and he reaffirmed that "only facts would be judged."

During a television interview Suarez Mason referred to the concern of some leaders regarding the lack of a real opening of political activity while there is talk in various circles about "an appropriate political time."

The high-ranking military chief said that "any time is a political time" and that "all Argentines are concerned about this situation, about the events taking place. There is a proposal, however, which has been announced by the president and will be known at the appropriate time." He said that until then it will be wise to maintain a respectful silence. He added: "I believe that only facts should be judged."

Regarding the various statements made in the last few days on the progress of the process--one by a former member of the military junta--Suarez Mason said that "I am not much inclined toward statements or speeches simply because I do not believe in words, but in facts."

MINISTER'S PROMISE TO RELEASE UNION LEADERS PROTESTED

PY192305 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1320 GMT 19 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jun (NA)--The Argentine Democratic Association (ADA) has asked Labor Minister Llamil Reston to clarify his "promise to release the union leaders arrested for violating current laws and advocating subversio against the national reorganization government." They are currently at the disp of the courts. This request is made in a communique signed by the head of the org ization, Luis F. Monetta. The communique also states that "Argentina must withdraw from the International Labor Organization (ILO)."

The document indicates that "the labor minister, Gen Llamil Reston, made a mistake by entrusting the representation of Argentine interests abroad to Peronist political figures whose corruptive and criminal activities are well known to the people and government of the nation." It then says that "this is further worsened by something even more serious: Minister Reston's promise to release union leaders arrested for violating current laws and advocating subversion against the national reorganization government."

ADA asks if "it is possible to even consider such a promise when these prisoners are at the disposal of competent judges who are handling the cases entrusted to them." ADA also asks "on what basis can the minister promise the release of the accused," and "is it possible that he plans to override the judicial branch?" ADA states that "this behavior requires an explanation from the minister."

It goes on to say that "the truth is that the game is the same as it was with all the governments of past decades, to the point of undermining the prestige of the country's free unions because of the irresponsibility of the appropriate officials. The organization then indicates that it has decided to "request another meeting with Labor Minister Reston to put an end to the shameful situation which evidences the incompetence of its promoters and the workers' false representatives."

It concludes by charging Reston with "giving in to the 'alien' interference of delegations from other nations who have come to Argentina, as evidenced by the silence and lack of explanation about these events."

COURT REJECTS HABEAS CORPUS REQUEST FOR JOURNALIST

PY160052 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1920 GMT 15 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Jun (NA)--The writ of habeas corpus requested by Mrs Rische Mindlin Timerman for her husband, journalist Jacobo Timerman, has been rejected, as well as the declaration of unconstitutionality of the military junta's Resolution No 6. The decision was made in Hall Number 1 of the Federal Criminal and Correctional Appeals Court and was signed by Judges Raul Rodriguez Araya, Fernando Mantaras and Francisco P. Laplaza, who thus confirmed the resolution rejecting both requests by Judge Norberto Angel Giletta. The court said that Mrs Timerman is petitioning for the total elimination of all restrictions which unduly deprive her husband of his freedom, since the only legal provision of Decree 1091/77 of the executive branch, under which her husband was arrested, has been removed by the Supreme Court of Justice, which reinstated the right of habeas corpus on which her request is based.

OFFICER REFUTES ALLEGATIONS OF BORDER PENETRATION

PY151522 Paris AFP in Spanish 0329 GMT 15 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Azul, 14 Jun (AFP)--Gen Leopoldo Galtieri, commander of the 1st Corps, refuted here today allegations of border penetration perpetrated by Brazilians and other citizens of bordering nations.

"It is not a case of penetration by these countries, their people, or actions perpetrated on purpose. It is an Argentine problem," the general said.

He explained that most inhabitants have settled in the "great irrigated pampa which abundantly supplies the people's needs, but we Argentines have forgotten our borders and they are deserted."

General Galtieri concluded by stating the need "to gradually resume political activities" in the country, but he remarked that this does not mean "calling elections tomorrow," but "gradually increasing civilian participation in state affairs."

BRIEFS

MASSERA TRAVELS--Buenos Aires, 18 Jun (TELAM)--It has been reported that the former commander of the navy, Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera (ret). left for Mexico today on a private trip. Massera had traveled to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on Friday, returning yesterday at noon. [Text] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1507 GMT 18 Jun 79 PY]

TRADE MISSION--Tomas de Estrada, national director of trade promotion, has reported that an Argentine trade mission has departed for Mexico, Costa Rica and Colombia, where they will enter into negotiations concerning technology, agricultural machinery, food industry, and technical and economic cooperation. [Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 19 Jun 79 p 11 PY]

HUNGARIAN MISSION--A trade mission from Hungary has visited Cordoba, where they held talks with provincial government and business officials about trade possibilities. The mission represents manufacturers of laboratory equipment, electric measurement instruments, electric energy measuring instruments and motor vehicle instrument panels. [Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 14 Jun 79 p 9 PY]

MINISTER ASKS ANDEAN PACT TO WEIGH BOLIVIAN PROBLEMS

PY201413 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Planning and Coordination Minister Gary Prado Salmon pleaded before representatives of the Cartagena Agreement junta, who are visiting the country, for Bolivia's rights to be respected and that the real problems of the nation be taken into account in their proper proportions, in order that an effective integration process may be achieved among the member countries of the subregion.

The minister announced the official Bolivian point of view at the meeting of the National Economic and Planning Council [CONEPLAN], attended by representatives of the Cartagena Agreement junta. On that occasion Prado Salmon asked the visitors to make special efforts to understand the reality of the Bolivian situation, characterized by an economic development which is facing serious difficulties, mainly caused by internal and external factors [as heard]. He then added that it is necessary to look upon Bolivia with a view to its peculiar characteristics, in order to achieve results in subregional integration. We do not ask for a treatment of protectionism or privilege in relation to the other member countries [words indistinct]; we plead for respect for the rights granted to Bolivia in the Cartagena Agreement.

Regarding the maritime problem we are enduring, the planning and coordination minister said that the Cartagena Agreement junta should look upon that problem as a primary subject, since that situation is not only a political reality of this country but rather an international situation which has serious consequences for the Bolivian economy.

Conclusion of Andean Visit

PY201416 LA PAZ Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Text] The application of decision No 141 of the Cartagena Agreement Commission, referring to collective measures of support for this country toward a solution of our problems caused by the landlocked situation in which we find ourselves, should be implemented before 31 December 1980. This statement has been made by (Pedro Carmona Estanga), coordinator of the subregional organization, who is in this capital together with Jose de la Puente and (Washington Ferrera), Peruvian and Ecuadorean representatives, respectively, during a press conference. The Cartagena Agreement executives arrived in this city on the first leg of a tour embracing the member countries of the subregional organization.

In his statements, (Carmona) said that meetings have been held with Bolivian private businessmen and labor leaders to analyze the future of the industrial program and the measures contained in Decision No 143 by which the deadline was extended for Bolivia and Ecuador to begin applying the customs franchize program, adopting the common external customs tariff. Regarding the talks held with the Bolivian workers, the junta coordinator maintained that he had explained to that sector, in accordance with the Cartagena mandate, that the promotion of the working classes to positions of the highest responsibility and the incorporation of the poorest classes in the social process are among the main objectives of the mandate.

(Pedro Carmona) then stressed that ideas and experiences had been exchanged in a valuable manner during work meeting on the official level. We end this visit with a deeper knowledge of the points of view which exist regarding the Bolivian participation in the Andean group, he emphasized.

ARMY COMMANDER SAYS ARMED FORCES WILL NOT DISAPPEAR

PY210120 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2351 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 20 Jun (LATIN)--A high-ranking Bolivian military officer has strongly warned that the country's armed forces will confront any political action aimed at dissolving them. This statement represents the armed forces position in view of rumors about an alleged political plan aimed at destroying the armed forces only 10 days before the elections which will return to the country its democratic institutions.

The commander in chief of the army, Gen Ramon Azero, said in a speech in reference to the alleged threat, that "an attempt for the destruction of the military institutions which protect us is an intent to destroy the country itself, and this will not happen as long as we are motivated by higher values." Without specifying the origin of the alleged antimilitary plan, he added that opinions have emerged against the improvement of the national army and there are even people who propose the disappearance of the armed forced as if in an effort by hidden forces to remove a few more obstacles from their desired path.

VOLUNTEERS LEAVE TO JOIN SANDINISTS IN NICARAGUA

PY202328 Paris AFP in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 20 Jun (AFP)--A small commando [words indistinct] of Bolivians left today [words indistinct] for Nicaragua to fight alongside the Sandinist guerrillas, it was reported here. This report, published by the newspaper EL MUNDO, stated that the volunteers have an average age of 23 to 28 and will be trained "some-place in Central America." It was also learned here today that other groups of volunteers are preparing to leave to help the Nicaraguan Sandinists.

LABOR URGED TO SUPPORT CONSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS

PY201429 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpt] President David Padilla Arancibia has summoned the workers of the country to become the guarantors of the constitutionalization process in which the armed forces are engaged. The appeal was made during a speech to over 100 factory workers. The president then specifically asked the Bolivian workers to maintain serenity under the present circumstances in order to guarantee a worthy and impartial process. The president was accompanied by the finance, industry and commerce and urbanization and housing ministers during a ceremony of inauguration of the industrial plant of the Tabacco Company, located at Plaza Antofagasta.

BRIEFS

FRG AID IN MINING--The FRG Government, through the German Society for Technical Cooperation, has granted Bolivia a nonreimbursable credit of $3.8 million which will be used during 3 years by a joint FRG-Bolivian expert commission. The commission will make explorations of selected mineral deposits and conduct metallurgical and geological studies. The German organization will send six mining experts who will be members of the joint commission. [La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 19 Jun 79 PY]

ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL DENIES 'ARAFAT VISIT

PY210226 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 Jun 79 p 4 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--The head of the Arab League in Brazil, Mohamad Nouri, yesterday denied reports that the chairman of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, will visit Brazil next month.

'No Knowledge' of Visit

PY210228 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 20 Jun 79 p 2 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Itamaraty said yesterday that it has no knowledge of the reported visit of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Brazil next month, adding that the Brazilian Government has extended no invitation for the visit nor has it received any information regarding such a visit.

DEPUTIES URGE RECOGNITION OF SANDINIST GOVERNMENT

PY200122 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Deputies Walter Silva, Cristina Tavares, Audalio Dantas and Iranildo Pereira today demanded Brazil's recognition of the government of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. Walter Silva demanded the destruction of the bust of the Nicaraguan president erected at Flamengo Plaza. Cristina Tavares said it would be inadmissible to allow a shameful invasion of Nicaragua--similar to those of Santo Domingo and Guatemala--under the pretext of safeguarding the lives of foreigners. Aurelio Dantas said the Figueiredo administration should direct the Brazilian OAS representative to oppose the creation of a peacekeeping force to intervene in Nicaragua. After stating that the FSLN is the only popular force recognized in Nicaragua, Iranildo Pereira proposed a solidarity campaign with the Nicaraguan people.

CALS RECOMMENDS REVIEW OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS

PY191410 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jun 79 p 30 PY

[Text] At a meeting of Brazil's Higher Energy Council held yesterday, Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals decided to recommend that NUCLEBRAS, FURNAS Electric Central and the National Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEN) review all safety procedures of Brazilian nuclear plants to prevent "the occurrence of simultaneous flaws as happened in the United States recently." The minister made this decision after analyzing for more than 4 hours the report prepared by Brazilian scientists on the Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident, as well as studying all the safety procedures which apply to Brazilian nuclear plants. This meeting was closed to the press and the conclusions of studies on the safety of nuclear plants were not made public. The minister only made public some conclusions in the CNEN report on the Three Mile Island accident.

After the meeting, Minister Cals said that he not only recommended that safety procedures be reviewed but that the personnel training program will also be intensified, particularly the training of the personnel who will operate the Angra nuclear plants. He also ordered that "the emergency plan be examined to make it more complete if needed and that drills of accidents at nuclear plants be systematically conducted so that should an eventuality arise, the personnel will have the necessary practical experience to take measures and to eliminate surprises."

Minister Cals emphasized that the accident in the United States will serve to increase safety at the nuclear plants inasmuch as it prompted a worldwide study of the flaws which occurred for the purpose of developing better safety systems. He also said that the CNEN sent Brazilian experts to study the accident which occurred in the United States to collect all available information which could be of interest to improve the safety system in the Brazilian nuclear plants. In addition, the CNEN will continue to keep abreast of any studies in various countries to take advantage of their experience and conclusions.

The minister said: According to the report presented by the experts at the meeting of the Higher Energy Council, one can tell that the Three Mile Island accident was caused by several flaws of a varied nature; there were flaws in design, operation, communication, compliance with administrative rules, personnel training, and emergency planning. It is important to note that the environmental effect was minimal, meaning that the reactor protection system worked well. We are going to use all available information regarding the accident in the United States to improve our safety systems.

TALKS GO WELL ON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS WITH ARGENTINA

PY160333 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Jun 79 p 7 PY

[Excerpts] In Franca where he was accompanying President Figueiredo yesterday, Foreign Minister Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro said that negotiations between Brazil and Argentina on Itaipu-Corpus "are going very well in an excellent climate of cordiality, confidence and willingness on both sides." Guerreiro added that "the question is complex, but it can be resolved satisfactorily," and observed that meetings are not being held because "they would not make sense right now." Guerreiro then stated: "Each of us has to do his homework and then talk with Paraguay." He observed that "the process is a bit complicated, but each of us now has a rational and objective attitude."

Brazil's attitude, combined with the halted negotiations with Paraguay and between Argentina and Paraguay on the Yacyreta project--which was announced yesterday by the president of the Paraguayan-Argentine enterprise, Jorge Pegoraro, in Buenos Aires--opens new possibilities for joint Argentine-Brazilian energy-generating projects on the Uruguay River, according to Argentine diplomatic sources. These studies refer to the possibility of building three hydroelectric plants with a total capacity of close to 6 million kilowatts, but their actual construction would be dependent, according to the same sources, on a previous agreement for the coordination of the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric plants on the Parana River.

Those studies provided for the construction of three dams: Sao Pedro, 800,000 kilowatts, located downriver from Uruguaiana; Garabi, 2.2 million kilowatts, at a site 4 kilometers from Garruchos and upstream from Sao Borja; and Roncador, 2.8 million kilowatts, located near Santa Rosa or Panambi. Of the three projects, Argentina would prefer to give priority to the Garabi dam because of its economic feasibility. The cost of Garabi is estimated at $1.1 billion, plus financing services. The cost per installed kilowatt is estimated at $500.

BRIEFS

URANIUM OXIDE PRICE--NUCLEBRAS Director John Milne Albuquerque Forman has told the Congressional Mines and Energy Committee that a process developed by Brazilian technicians will permit the production of uranium oxide (yellow cake) at a 60 percent concentration, thus making the cost of the product lower than the current $100 per kilogram. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Jun 79 p 25 PY]

PRC'S CHEN JIE TOURS NUCLEAR PLANT; AGREEMENT SIGNED

PY201606 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpts] Chen Jie, the PRC foreign trade commerce minister who is visiting our country, yesterday toured the Lo Aguirre nuclear plant with his entourage and Chilean Foreign Ministry officials. He was welcomed by Col Romualdo Pizarro, chairman of the Chilean Nuclear Commission. Later an agreement was signed between the Chilean Nuclear Commission and the National Chemical Corporation from Shanghai through which 1,400 cubic meters of gauze bandage will be sterlized by gamma radiation. Moreover, the PRC-Chilean joint commission is still meeting in an atmosphere of complete understanding. Sources have reported that bilateral trade might total $100 million in 1980.

PRESIDENT URGES DESTRUCTION OF BACTERIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

PY161418 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpts] President Pinochet yesterday issued a number of notes to be submitted for legislative consideration. One of these notes approves the accord on prohibiting bacteriological and toxic weapons and advocates the destruction of all weapons of this kind. It also calls for an agreement between the countries which accept this accord to facilitate the broad exchange of equipment, materiel and scientific and technological information for the peaceful utilization of these elements.

OFFICERS INVOLVED IN LETELIER CASE TRANSFERRED

PY160204 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1836 GMT 15 Jun 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 15 Jun (LATIN)--Col Pedro Espinoza and two other officers whose extradition has been requested by the United States for their alleged involvement in the assassination of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier have been transferred by court order to a military unit from the hospital where they were kept under arrest, court circles reported today. The decision was made by the Supreme Court of Justice last Tuesday at the request of Gen Carlos Forestier, deputy commander in chief of the army. The sources could not reveal the reason for the transfer of the officers, and said only that the position of the three officers incriminated in this case continues as it was, and that the case will be heard in the higher court in the next few days. The former director of the defunct National Intelligence Directorate (DINA), retired Gen Manuel Contreras and his aide, Capt Armando Fernandez, remain under arrest in the military hospital.

EL MERCURIO ON PERUVIAN-ARGENTINE JOINT DECLARATION

PY192128 Paris AFP in Spanish 1639 GMT 19 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 19 Jun (AFP)--The recent Peruvian-Argentine joint declaration which calls for good understanding among the countries of the hemisphere in order to reduce military expenditures is the subject of a commentary today in the conservative newspaper EL MERCURIO. The morning paper stresses that "the appeal is timely, since it comes from two countries which have made large acquisitions of war materiel lately." It says that "this situation affects two oceans and two very important regions of South America," and points out that "Chile has always been ready to reach an agreement in this regard. The Argentine and Peruvian presidents, Jorge Rafael Videla and Francisco Morales Bermudez, met in Buenos Aires recently and signed a joint declaration.

COMMITTEE IN EXILE RECOGNIZED AT ILO CONFERENCE

PY142153 Paris AFP in Spanish 1737 GMT 14 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Geneva, 14 Jun (AFP)--The 65th International Labor Conference, which groups together the labor delegations of the 139 members of the ILO, today recognized the members of the committee in exile of the Chilean Trade Union Confederation as the "authentic representatives of the workers" of that country. The decision affects the delegation headed by Guillermo Medina, who has been accused of representing "the Chilean dictatorship" and not the workers of that country. The recognition of the committee in exile does not give it a voice or vote during the conference.

NEWSPAPER REPORTS DEATH OF SPANISH PRIEST

PY202323 Paris AFP in Spanish 1421 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Text] Madrid, 20 Jun (AFP)--The Spanish newspaper INFORMACIONES stated today that the Spanish priest Antonio Llido Amengual was executed in the Pisagua concentration camp in northern Chile. The newspaper points out that the report of the execution comes from witnesses who in the past few days have approached the committee of solidarity which was created in Valencia a year and a half ago and which has Joaquin Ruiz Jimenez, former minister of education and Christian Democrat leader, as one of its members. According to the newspaper, Llido Amengual's execution was confirmed by a Chilean officer currently in exile in Great Britain who gave assurance that he was in the Pisagua concentration camp.

The Chilean Embassy in Madrid stated today that it did not know anything about Llido Amengual's imprisonment and possible execution. The information office of the Spanish Foreign Ministry also said it did not have any information about the death of the Spanish priest. The priest Antonio Llido Amengual comes from Javea, Valencia, is 43 years old and was sent to Chile by the Missionary Commission in 1969 and lived in Quillota (Valparaiso). He has dedicated his activities to the redemption of the poor. He was arrested by the National Intelligence Department (DINA), tortured and sent to the Tres Alamos camp.

COUNCIL OF STATE MEMBERS RECEIVE REAPPOINTMENT

PY202121 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jun 79 PY

[Text] It has been officially reported that former President Jorge Alessandri Rodriguez has been reappointed as president of the Council of State for another 3-year constitutional term, and that former President Gabriel Gonzalez Videla has also been reappointed as vice president of this government body. The following government advisers have also been reappointed for another 3-year term as members of the Council of State: Enrique Urrutia Manzano, former president of the Supreme Court; Gen Oscar Izurieta Molinas, (ret), former army commander; Gen Vicente Herte (ret), former Carabineros commander; Juan de Dios Carmona, former cabinet member; Hernan Figueroa, former ambassador; Enrique Ortuzar Escobar, former Catholic University Law School professor; Carlos Caceres Contreras, former professor of the Catholic Economic School in Valparaiso; (Hugo Filipi Izquierdo), representative of national Chilean professionals; Pedro Ibanez Ojeda, representative of the national business sector; Guillermo Medina, representative of the labor sector; Mercedez Ezquerra, woman representative; and Hector Humeres Mananz, former comptroller general. The latter replaces Enrique Bahamondez Ruiz.

AIR FORCE REPORTS ON INCIDENT IN MANAGUA

PA191939 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Air Force Commander Gen Raul Alberto Paredes Diago issued a press bulletin today explaining the incident which occurred in Las Mercedes Airport in Managua when a Colombian Air Force [FAC] plane was machinegunned by unidentified persons. The bulletin indicates that the Nicaraguan Government had offered the proper guarantees to the Air Force on a landing without incident. Despite the guarantees, the plane was hit by machinegun fire, endangering the lives of Foreign Ministry officials, Civil Defense and Red Cross personnel, and 14 newsmen. The communique issued today is read by Air Force public relations chief Maj Hernando Saenz:

[Begin Saenz recording] The Colombian Air Force commander reports to the public on the incident involving Colombia Air Force C-130 plane--No 1001--in Las Mercedes Airport, Managua, Nicaragua. At the request of the Foreign Ministry and in line with flight order No 36 of 15 June 1979, the FAC command ordered that a mission be carried out to transport food and medicine to the Nicaraguan and Honduran Red Cross and to transport 83 Colombians who had asked to be evacuated from Managua to Bogota in view of the difficulties they face in Nicaragua.

Colombia completely fulfilled the requirements for this type of international flight such as obtaining the Nicaraguan Government's approval for the plane to overfly Nicaraguan territory and to land at Las Mercedes Airport. The passengers, who included Foreign Ministry and Civil Defense personnel and newsmen, had been duly authorized. In Tegucigalpa the crew was notified by the Colombian ambassador to Honduras and the Foreign Ministry representative that the flight to Las Mercedes had the proper guarantees. This was confirmed by the Colombian ambassador to Nicaragua. The plane left for Managua where, according to the control tower instructions, it proceeded to land on runway No 9 which was in use. [end recording]

THIRTY ARRESTED AS ALLEGED URBAN GUERRILLAS

PA191550 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Bucaramanga--Some 30 alleged urban guerrillas were detained by the 5th Brigade during operations in several Santander municipalities, a military source has reported. The prisoners include lawyers, engineers, priests, politicians and peasants who are suspected of aiding the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the National Liberation Army. The names of the arrested were not disclosed.

LAES RATIFICATION PAPERS DEPOSITED

PA191555 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpt] Colombia has deposited the documents to ratify its adherence to the Latin American Economic System (LAES). The Colombian ambassador to Venezuela, Cornelio Reyes, delivered the corresponding documents to the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry, where they should be deposited according to the LAES Charter Convention. Reyes highlighted the importance of the ceremony, noting that LAES is one of the most effective means to complement economic policies and expedite Latin America's integration process.

M-19, FARC COOPERATION REVEALED

PA201656 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota--Carlos Toledo Plaza, top leader of the M-19 movement, lived for several weeks on a farm in the Middle Magdalena area with the help of guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] following the spectacular theft of 5,000 arms from the Northern Division of the Military Institutes Brigade [BIM]. This revelation has been made to investigators by 10 persons who confessed to being M-19 members. They affirmed that they saw Toledo in the Middle Magdalena area.

Meanwhile, in a ruling that took the country's judicial circles by surprise, the district attorney of the Superior Military Court has asked for the immediate release of seven persons charged with involvement in M-19 activities. Disagreeing with the allegations of the BIM, which made the arrests, District Attorney Margarita Yepes asked the Superior Court to release Mercedes Maracaldo, Carlos Alirio Hernandez, Graciela Benavides and four others. The decision, which will be reviewed next week, is contained in an extensive brief in which Yepes also asks that Colonel Henao (Ningo) be brought into the sensational case. As will be remembered, the controversial military officer was summarily dismissed from the district attorney's office and the army on suspicion of involvement in M-19.

BRIGADE ASKS FOR OFFICIAL AID TO FIGHT IN NICARAGUA

PA201849 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Text] The Simon Bolivar Brigade, preparing to leave for Nicaragua to fight against the Somoza regime, asked the Colombian Government for help. Brigade spokesmen pointed out that that they need military and economic assistance as the number of volunteers is quite large. Over 300 men have already enlisted to leave for Nicaragua. Since the number continues to increase, the spokesmen add, it is necessary to obtain official assistance. The members of the brigade explained that the decision to ask for official assistance was adopted in view of the fact that Colombia, together with Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, has given belligerent status to the forces fighting in Nicaragua.

NICARAGUAN REFUGEES ARRIVE AT SAN ANDRES

PA202322 Paris AFP in Spanish 2147 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 Jun (AFP)--The Nicaragua situation continues to be felt today in Colombia. Congressional sectors launched severe attacks on the OAS while Nicaraguan refugees, fleeing from the civil war, continued to arrive. While the general repudiation of the Somoza regime increases, many refugees are arriving at the Caribbean island of San Andres. At least 200 persons, aboard fishing boats, have arrived during the past few hours. They are in a poor state of health, and are without food or water. Most of them have come from Corn Island, and more boats filled with refugees are expected to arrive.

Colombian Foreign Ministry officials have gone to San Andres to assist the arriving Nicaraguans. Meanwhile, spokesmen of the recently created Simon Bolivar Brigade announced the imminent departure of more Colombian volunteers, who are leaving to join the Sandinists. The first group of 40 volunteers left for Costa Rica last week.

TERRORISTS ATTACK RESIDENCE OF PRESIDENT-ELECT

PA191545 Ecuador Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Guayaquil--A group of terrorists last night machinegunned the residence of the president-elect, lawyer Jaime Roldos Aguilera, and fled in an automobile. No one was injured. The bullets hit the windows of the house. So far there is no information on the perpetrators. Roldos' house is on Lugue Street, in the commercial sector of Guayaquil. At the time of the attack, there were no police around. The incident was reported to the office of criminal investigation service.

Violence Continues in Guayaquil

PA201305 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Guido Chiriboga Parra, prefect of Guayas Province, was the target of a criminal attack last night. Chiriboga Parra said brothers (Averoy) and Omar Bucaram headed the group of armed individuals who attacked him. The following were wounded during the attack: Jorge (Seledi) Perex, who claimed to be the bodyguard of the lawyer who serves as secretary of the president-elect; John Garay, bodyguard of Chiriboga Parra; and Efrain Cordoba (Penasviel), supply custodian at the Silambanco construction firm.

Seledi and Garay also blamed the Bucaram brothers for the attack, charging that they opened fire with machineguns. Alejandro Garay, John's brother, said that the armed group fled in a blue Chevrolet after the attack. The incidents took place last night at the entrance to the Guayas Provincial Council Building.

Nelson Franco Piedra, vice president of the Guayas Provincial Council, reported that his home was fired on in a wave of terrorist activity yesterday in Guayaquil. Referring to this and to the attack on Engineer Rodolfo [name indistinct], who has been elected to the National Assembly, Franco Piedra said everyone knows those responsible for the shooting are [words indistinct] and the famous (Coquin Alvarado), alias "El Tiro." The Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] is conscious of its commitment to the Ecuadorean people. All loyal CFP leaders are alined with the people and we are incapable of treachery, Franco Piedra said in a communique published in the Guayaquil press today.

PRESIDENT-ELECT CONDEMNS TERRORISM, VIOLENCE

PA201659 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Report by Guayaquil correspondent Bernardo Morales]

[Text] The path for the return to democracy has been hard and long and we are not going to block it through irresponsibility and treason by those who promote and encourage terrorism, Ecuadorean President-elect Jaime Roldos Aguilera has said over the telephone from the press office at the headquarters of the Front of Independent Professionals in Quito. Roldos publicly expressed his solidarity with Guido Chiriboga Parra, whom he described as a man of proven loyalty to the people's cause and who, from his post as prefect, knows how to direct the destinies of the Guayas Provincial Council with honesty and efficiency. He also expressed solidarity with the other members of his party who, because of their loyalty to the people's cause, have been the victims of terrorism.

Commenting on [words indistinct], Roldos said that (?gang) violence is a weapon of [words indistinct] disloyalty to the people's interests. Those who promote and use violence, destruction and terorism are placing themselves in the service of those who still seek injustice, exploitation, arbitrary actions and dictatorship in our fatherland. Thus, they are definitely placing themselves in the service of the oligarchy. He added that violence and terrorism are the weapons of those who, lacking ideological conviction and [words indistinct] of the people's decision on 29 April, seek to tarnish [words indistinct]. They will not achieve this because if we know how to carry out the people's mandate with responsibility and determination we will not let the country fall to the provocations of the terrorists, Roldos stressed.

The president-elect added: I reject and condemn violence and firmly demand that those who seek to divide the people by using those who in the university campuses [words indistinct] have caused the university crisis should not go unpunished. Therefore, I firmly state that I will not permit the reign of violence and chaos of (?four) anarchists, traitors to the desire of the people. They falsely believe that they can subjugate men through terrorism.

Roldos Aguilera concluded by stating that the people do not want or [word indistinct] totalitarian attitudes. They showed this by voting for democracy, freedom and change. I will energetically defend the people's will. Because of this, I warn the terrorists that my government will not be lenient toward them and that, the same as all those who plot against the people and the fatherland, they will be repressed with the full weight of the law since democracy, freedom and change demand a creative peace [words indistinct].

POVEDA BURBANO, ROLDOS DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY

PA201710 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpts] Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, chief of the military government triumvirate, and President-elect Jaime Roldos Aguilera have held their first high-level meeting to discuss the transfer of power. They also reviewed Ecuador's foreign policy during their meeting at the Foreign Ministry. Regarding the meeting, Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso said:

[Begin recording] We held a work meeting at the Foreign Ministry today which was attended by Adm Alfredo Poveda Burbano, president of the Supreme Council of Government, President-elect Jaime Roldos, Foreign Ministry officials and several advisers of Mr Roldos. Admiral Poveda and I were able to brief the president-elect on the basic guidelines of the national government's foreign policy and to review with him Ecuador's position in international organizations and in its bilateral relations.

This meeting at the Foreign Ministry was the first of a series to analyze the most important issues of national policy in various fields. During the next few days there will be new meetings of chiefs of the domestic, military and economic sectors so the Roldos Government will gain greater knowledge of the operation of the armed forces government.

BRIEFS

CEPE FINANCING--The Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE] has contracted loans totalling $216 million between 1974 and 1978, with 65 percent of these being foreign loans and 35 percent domestic loans. In recent years, CEPE has increasingly tended to finance its activities by the use of its own funds or foreign or domestic loans while there has been a corresponding decrease in allocations from the treasury. [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 10 Jan 79 PA]

OPPOSITION PARTIES CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT POLICIES

PY202212 [Editorial Report PY] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on page 10 of its 20 June issue publishes a paid advertisement of the Liberal Party signed by its president, Carlos A. Rufinelli. The advertisement refers to the stagnation of the system which governs in Paraguay and its mistaken attitude toward freedom of the press. It then refers to problems pointed out by various newspapers and to the response of the government authorities. Among the problems, it mentions the misappropriation of funds earmarked for significant works, the electricity surcharge, the drastic increase in the price of gasoline, the request for a minimum salary increase, the steps taken by some Colorado Party members to save their reputations after they were accused of being communists by the chief of the police investigations department, the accusation made in the pastoral letter of corruption and moral disorder implemented by the regime, and the harassment and mistreatment of a group of young people detained by the police.

It points out that the "system should realize that the coersive methods it has used for years are old and out of date and that the nation needs substantial changes in its progress toward democracy." Finally, the statement says that "regimes that believe in force end up by killing popular aspirations and are consumed by disasters, as in the case of Somoza," and others.

The same newspaper, on page 5, publishes a paid advertisement of the Radical Liberal Party signed by its president, German Acosta Caballero. The advertisement points out that this party was created "at a crucial moment in the nation's history. Administrative corruption, the abuse of authority, arrogance and injustice, and general political discrimination are on the increase, even affecting vast sectors of the economy; unconstitutional monopoly is rampant; sectarian use of public office as well as the support of privileges in favor of small groups prevail in the national sphere." It then goes to point out the goals of the Radical Liberal Party, such as seeking "a peace based on free consent, without oppressors and oppressed, without social outcasts, without violence or injustice."

It also states that the republic now demands a restoration of harmony among Paraguayan families, and therefore "our political ideal is based on fundamental ideas of human dignity, which is the final destiny of the social organization that works under the protection of private initiative as long as it does not go against the collective interests or threaten to become the privilege of individuals, groups or classes. For the same reason we approve the vigorous defense of human rights taken up as never before by the U.S. Government."

The statement stresses that Paraguay should take advantage of its natural resources to obtain national autonomy without being subject to colonialism, but at the same time permitting foreign investment that is in accordance with the nation's interests. It also stresses that the population should participate in the country's social and economic development, including an equal distribution of wealth. The difference between a majority that works and a minority that suppresses those who produce should disappear.

It states that the judicial branch should be independent in order to attain democracy. "Paraguay is on the brink of a crisis, and it is in the national interest to prevent this, because it might devour the achievement of previous generations." The statement indicates that most difficulties arise because of a lack of control by government officials caused by the existence of a strong pattern of discrimination.

FURTHER COMMENT ON SUSPENSION OF ULTIMA HORA, LA TRIBUNA

HOY Editorial

PY191753 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Jun 79 p 9 PY

[Editorial: "The Stagnation of the Press"]

[Text] Asuncion newspaper readers learned with surprise at noon yesterday that the printing and distribution of the newspapers ULTIMA HORA and LA TRIBUNA have been suspended for 30 days by an Interior Ministry resolution. Resolution No 435 charges that these newspapers have been making "biased criticism against government dispositions and against high-ranking government officials," and that "high-ranking government officials have been slandered." Moreover, the resolution charges that the newspapers, among other things, were creating panic and anguish among the people in their reporting of international events.

The public has been taken by surprise. This is a public which was growing and developing at the same time that the Paraguayan press was growing and developing. It is obvious that the corridors of newspapers which were spared from the pruning knife were filled with an atmosphere of tense expectation until a just evaluation of the situation and a satisfactory solution had been reached for meeting the demands of the freedom of the Paraguayan press.

There is no doubt, however, that the Interior Ministry resolution has halted the development of the freedom of the press in Paraguay. This development was clearly evidenced not only on the pages of the newspapers but in uncommon meetings between newspaper directors and government officials in front of television cameras, in working lunches and in round-table discussions. These were brilliant occasions to shape a certain kind of Paraguayan expression, a free and spontaneous expression which was to be molded by the personality of its creator and adjusted to the guidelines which have been chosen by the leadership of the respective newspapers.

As a result of this resolution which has stopped the development of the Paraguayan press, there is now doubt and indecision about the limits where one's rights end and the other's begin, and about the line which marks the border between freedom and irresponsibility. It must be noted in this regard that the independent press is neither political nor subversive. It respects constituted authorities which are based on laws, with the exception of the criticism it may issue regarding a decision. It does not come out on the streets to overthrow governments or create disorders. If it denounces an irregularity, it does not begin legal proceedings, because this is not its concern. By opening its doors, it is opening itself to the people's concerns. It has the duty to safeguard the strict upholding of the laws and regulations and the conduct of public officials. It is not capable of appointing them or of ousting them from office because this is not part of its power, and it unfailingly supports only those trends which have a deep nationalistic sentiment.

Furthermore, the press is an industry, since in addition to promoting knowledge and offering its daily contribution to Paraguayan culture, it moves the wheels of industry and gives jobs to hundreds of specialized workers, some of whom simply write the news or their opinions, and others of whom put their highly qualified training at the service of the capital which has given them a way of life. There is still another, the child worker, the newspaper boy who sells the paper on the streets and who offers the client a more direct contact with this product which has been produced with great love despite the fact that it will never live beyond 24 hours because it will be replaced by another one which will fill the citizens' yearning for new information.

This process was slowed yesterday. But it is not a setback. Those newspapers which are allowed to open their doors today will still voice the community's concerns, and those which have been closed will do the same once they return after either the constitutionality of the government disposition has been established or the reasons for a possible closure have disappeared because they lack an immediate or coherent explanation.

The freedom of the press in Paraguay is an achievement of our times, and it will continue to develop through the daily contributions made by those who helped it come about or those who support it despite finding a red light in its path once in a while.

Closure 'Step Backward'

PY191532 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Jun 79 p 12 PY

[Editorial: "An Unjustified Step Backward"]

[Text] Freedom of the press does not have a happy history in our nation. For decades there were governments that feared the press, and they demonstrated it by issuing legislative and other types of measures, especially by the implementation of the political charter which was imposed as a constitutional amendment through Law No 2,242 of 10 July 1940.

The anarchy feared by those former governments never came to pass, but the press restrictions did contribute toward generating extremely serious consequences. Following the persecution of the press, or simultaneously with it, other citizens rights were either restricted or suppressed until the country's overall political situation fell into another evil in its nastiest form.

The feared anarchy never emerged, but there was an excess of power--too much so--by the state, and in the face of this excess of power civic-mindedness decreased, dissent was abolished, the principle of party pluralism was diminished, the minor characteristics of the democratic way of life were reduced and even the concepts of what a nation is and of its basic unity ended up in an impaired state.

The lessons of history should be learned, and it is apparent that the nation did learn.

Despite all the vicissitudes which were experienced through the years, freedom returned only step by step into the national way of life.

The current government has the undeniable merit of having acknowledged the new conditions which were maturing in the thinking of the Paraguayans and of having channelled them toward a new basic legal order, thus achieving the constitution of 25 August 1967.

With the implementation of this new constitution, a whole new perspective opened up for the country and in a special manner for the press. Thus a journalism could emerge which had never been known: the independent press.

In a strict sense, the merit for the development of this press is not exclusively the press' own, because the population gave it decisive support. This gives rise to the thought that in this respect there is a pleasant aspect of the Paraguayan community; in other words, that this press knew how to interpret, and in a certain way, it was the protagonist of the evolution of real progress because it is linked to achieving a state of free thinking.

Regrettably, it is also observable in the country that the fear of the press has not died, despite everything taught us by the past and despite the achievements obtained to date. Fear still persists in some groups and in men who, due to their government activities, could well possess a better overall outlook and a better criterion to guide their actions.

Just precisely yesterday there occurred a government action which can be encompassed within those concepts, and it reflects the fear which we are talking about.

Thus, instead of trying to change the course of public opinion with better reasoning, as was done by the great political figures through the years when they faced deviations of press freedom (that is, if this is currently the case), there has been a preference for the option of reacting with power in ordering the suspension, for 30 days, of two newspapers of the independent press.

For the time being, we do not know where the policy which was initiated yesterday will lead, but yes, we do know that due to it, the country will experience an unjust and unjustifiable step backward and that the old vices could increase. And in these days, this makes no sense.

Press Club Protest

PY191620 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 19 Jun 79 p 13 PY

[Text] The Press Club yesterday published a communique referring to Resolution No 435, by which the printing and distribution of the newspapers ULTIMA HORA and LA TRIBUNA was suspended for 30 days.

The document says: "Public opinion in the country has been deeply surprised by the Interior Ministry resolution by which the printing and distribution of the newspapers ULTIMA HORA and LA TRIBUNA have been suspended for 30 days.

"The journalists of the newspapers LA TRIBUNA, ABC, ULTIMA HORA and HOY, members of the Press Club, believe that there are no justified reasons for such a punishment, taking into account that the independent newspapers of the country--among them the two censured papers--only fulfill their function of responsibly and patriotically informing and guiding national public opinion.

"The Press Club also deplores the fact that police officials have confiscated part of today's issues of ULTIMA HORA and compelled the printers and newsmen of the two papers to leave their places of work.

"This unexpected government measure creates justified uncertainty among printers, newsmen and administrative personnel of the two papers.

"This prohibition violates expressed provisions of the constitution which, in Articles 71, 72 and 73, guarantees freedom of the press by establishing that 'the freedom of expression and of information, without prior censorship, are inviolable, and no law shall be passed which limits them or makes them impossible.'

"The journalists categorically deny having promoted hatred among Paraguayans, or class struggle, or having extolled crime or violence; on the contrary, they work with determination for the benefit of national coexistence by doing their duty of reporting and of helping to form a conscientious public opinion which is committed to the future of the country.

"It is noteworthy that this event should take place at a time when the consolidation of the democratic process in Paraguay is sought. Measures such as this only distort this effort which is being realized by the nation.

"Basing itself on these considerations, the directing council of the Press Club requests the competent officials to reconsider and lift this unfounded measure as a direct consequence of the government responsibility of guaranteeing the freedom of the press in this country."

The communique is dated 18 June 1979 and signed by Ilde Ignacio Silvero, president; Ruben Cespedes, secretary general, and the following members of the directing council: Roberto Codas for LA TRIBUNA, Jose Gaspar Meaurio for ULTIMA HORA, Carlos Rodriguez Gimenez for ABC, and Ruben Ojeda for HOY.

Archbishop on Suspension

PY201513 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Jun 79 p 13 PY

[Text] Asked about the interior minister's resolution No 435 which has provided for the suspension of ULTIMA HORA and LA TRIBUNA for 30 days, Asuncion Archbishop Msgr Ismael Rolon said: "The first impression was that of surprise, not of consent, but of regret. Through the freedom of the press which was beginning to be established, the people were beginning to learn about what was going on behind the scenes of public administration, of industrial undertakings--never about private life--which affected and interested them."

The archbishop added: "The preambles of the resolution or decree should be prepared with intelligence and an overall view of the question, with serenity, impartiality and equality. Part of the resolution reads: 'Freedom of the press--an achievement of the Paraguayan people--has as its goal sound and constructive criticism and its implementation thus will not allow the slandering of persons and institutions, creating hatred among Paraguayans and diverting the real objective of the press.'

"We should see then what really can be criticized. The social communications media must report truthfully and criticize in order to enhance and to construct. In this regard, the social communications media are the eyes, ears, minds and voices of the people, because they are at the service of the people.

"The people have the right to know where they are being taken, how they are being taken, and by whom, in terms of quality," the archbishop stated.

"The people have entrusted their goods, their freedom, their security, their future, their bread and their lives to government officials on all levels, and they have the inalienable right to know what is going on around those goods.

"Criticism must, therefore, inevitably also be directed toward government actions and activities and toward those who handle them in the name of the people. Only through the press will it be possible to obtain these reports and to improve things; of course, through a sound and constructive press.

"But in order to be constructive, criticism must necessarily destroy the idols and phantoms which thwart the normal and desired development and well-being of the people and, destroying them, to elevate the real, worthy, correct and just persons. Only through freedom of the press will the people have an opportunity to know their benefactors and exploiters."

Archbishop Rolon added: "The second impression, and I will try to be brief, is in inverse proportion to the seriousness of the problems: Who will pay for the bread of the newspaper boys, of their dear mothers and little brothers...? We know that in most cases, these boys support or help support their families through the daily distribution of the newspapers. Who will provide them with bread during these 30 days? Or aren't these poor boys supposed to feel hunger...?" Archbishop Rolon concluded.

Credibility Gap Charged

PY202138 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Jun 79 p 12 PY

[Editorial: "The Time Has Come To Speak Clearly"]

[Text] The preamble of the interior minister's Resolution No 435, by which the printing and distribution of the newspapers ULTIMA HORA and LA TRIBUNA have been suspended for 30 days, does not withstand the slightest critical examination. For instance, Article 50 of the constitution certainly does not entrust the interior minister with the specific task of protecting the honor and reputation of persons, and still less does it grant him the powers of prosecutor and judge in this regard or authorize him to impose punishment of any kind.

The same could be said regarding the other two articles of the constitution quoted in Resolution No 435 and in general regarding all the reasons contained in the preamble, which, on the other hand, gives a highly subjective--not to say biased--assessment of what the two papers being punished have, in fact, reported. In a few words, the reasons given in the preamble of resolution No 435 are hard to believe. And many people doubt, in fact, that it states the true reasons for which these two papers are being punished.

The conclusion is thus drawn that the improper suspension of two newspapers is perhaps basically as serious for the principle of authority as it is for the freedom of expression: the deterioration of the credibility in the official word. Let us say it frankly: This is an evil which has been spreading in this country not because the press is encouraging it or because the public is more critical, but because of the imperfections in statements made by state officials and offices, sometimes so glaring that they say exactly the opposite of what everyone can see and feel.

Let us mention a few cases. A short time ago the Central Bank said that the cost of living had gone down. Until very recently the National Administration of Electricity had insisted on its assertions that rainfalls were insufficient. The industry and commerce minister maintained that the fuel price increases were substantially correct and, moreover, that they would not have much influence on other prices. CORPOSANA [Asuncion Water and Sanitation Corporation] said that the contract with HIDROSIL [company contracted for a sewer project in an Asuncion suburb] was correct, and then canceled it. And so on and so forth.

Maybe there are reasons for these things, or at least for some of them. But if reasons really exist, the way they are presented makes them completely implausible, and nobody can believe them. And what can be said about all those things which are never mentioned at the official level? Here too, the seed of disbelief is growing.

None of these evils will be cured by punishment or other expressions of authority, and still less by those of authoritarianism. The suspension of newspapers without clearly stating the reasons why it is done is one of the best ways of promoting mistrust and disbelief.

PRESIDENT INAUGURATES FEDECAMARAS MEETING

PA191530 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 0154 GMT 18 Jun 79 PA

[Speech by Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins inaugurating annual assembly of Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Porlamar, Margarita Island--live]

[Excerpts] Dear friends attending this assembly of the Association of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry [FEDECAMARAS]:

In his interesting speech, FEDECAMARAS President Carlos Vogeler Rincones referred to several important issues, some of which I will also mention: the deficit in the balance of payments, which he described as a very hot issue; his statements on the Cartagena Mandate which show the urgency for a decision on internal economic policies that give us the instruments and mechanisms to allow the country's private sector to act quickly and firmly in setting up the most convenient strategies to strengthen and boost the development if our nation; the need to create and define comprehensive policies to boost regional development; the formation of our human resources, which constitute the country's greatest challenge; the urgent need for consensus and understanding, meaning active participation by representiatives of various sectors to diagnose and present solutions to problems within a climate of deliberation in order to create a platform of decision without forgetting that the power of deciding obviously rests on the state.

These concerns are not exclusive to FEDECAMARAS; they touch on important aspects of the country's reality, and the government is also interested in them as part of its effort to understand our people. We are seriously confronting our share of these problems, and we are sure we have met the level of responsibility which corresponds to us as leaders. The idea of participation is gaining strength in Venezuela. The adoption of positions and the disposition to change things are signs of maturity and nonconformance and represent the legitimate aspirations of the people. We face a great process of readjustment in our public sector. We not only have to pay attention to the extent of public spending but to pay particular attention to public revenues. One of our most substantial imbalances lies on the lack of compatibility between the country's overall activity--and within it that of the public sector--and the necessary revenues to meet the collective spending which this activity generates.

Venezuela continues to depend massively and dangerously on a single product to obtain foreign exchange and public revenues. The benefits deriving from this product have spared us the real sacrifices which would have been otherwise demanded from taxpayers to meet the requirements of collective action. This is true in regard to the central government's budget and the many nongovernmental [paraestatales] assessments andincome taxes required to meet many services rendered by the state. All services and goods produced by state enterprises--save for a few creditable exceptions--yield losses that have to be covered by the treasury, and the treasury receives most of its revenues from the benefits of a product whose administration is intimately related to the productive activity of the rest of the world, besides the fact that it is also sold in Venezuela at a loss. [sentence as heard] This situation cannot and must not continue. Any postponement of measures required to correct this imbalance may irreparably harm the country.

All of us will have to contribute in some measure to solving this problem, and those who have more will have to contribute more. In order for this exercise of harmonizing public revenue with spending to be useful, it will have to be carried out gradually but firmly.

Proposals have already been made to increase the rates of some services rendered by the state (?and) Maiquetia airport. Adjustments in the prices of some products produced by the state which are very sensitive for the people will be made by stages and very carefully. In a more collective sense, public savings will have to be increased, even starting in 1980, for which purpose we are analyzing the most effective instruments and levels to adjust revenues to expenditures. We are thus attending to two currents of the state's economic activity, that is, improving the quality and effectivity of public spending as well as adjusting public revenues and making them compatible with the expenses required by Venezuela's activity, particularly in the fields of education, health, service infrastructure (?works) and promotion of economic activity.

Regarding the 1980 budget, the government wants to make a thoroughly analyzed proposal to congress based on the opinion of qualified government leaders in order to review the wages of public officials, seeking better quality and treatment for this sector which has been neglected so much within the country's productive activity. We will also review the wage system for the public sector in order to organize it and correct the worst deformations. As a compensation for this, we will demand greater dedication to work, the elimination of absentism, and improvement of the public workers' spirit of service, a higher level of efficiency and clear loyalty to the state above any party politics.

We are on the alert and firmly determined to prevent a general increase in prices. That is our worst enemy. Inflation is the scourge of the poor and the worst enemy of development. He who believes that inflation is kind in its effects and stimulating for developing countries must look at the rest of this hemisphere or return to the history book and review the consequences of this terrible enemy. We are adopting measures to attack the roots of this problem. The measures of my government seek to encourage the producer without sacrificing the consumer. We want to invite more Venezuelans to produce so that, with efficiency, they will turn over more local products for the consumer.

We understand that greater and increasingly efficient production is the true final response to the pressure exerted by prices. Our plan for the liberation of prices is progressive. We want to stimulate the production of the goods which are needed the most in the country in order to encourage active competition between our local products and those coming from abroad. We want to improve the mechanisms of distribution with adequate supervision. All these measures are aimed at alleviating price pressure through better and more efficient supply. We must adopt the necessary measures immediately to correct the negative influence that uneven distribution of wealth and increased prices have had on Venezuelans, and especially on the poor.

We understand that many collective agreements are being negotiated this year in all sectors and levels of the country's productive sectors. My ministers are thoroughly informing the contracting parties about our present situation and the corrective measures we are taking to attack the problems I have already mentioned. We want to give the first chance to this efficient mechanism of collective bargaining so that the stipulations for distributing the benefits of production can be established under the new rules of the game. We can leave no room for doubt that the state is willing to adopt measures to prevent the labor sector from being affected by the distribution. We want to correct existing deformations and bad distribution of the benefits of production within the balance that I have established as a rule.

I have said it before and I repeat it today that I am a friend of those who create wealth and produce goods so that they can be justly and equitably distributed for the common good. We cannot continue depending on imports and, for this reason, we must increase our production and our productivity.

There are no profits in scientific research. The research sector requires resources and well-paid and stimulated personnel so that they may dedicate themselves to it with patriotic fervor. I reassure the country that there is no manipulation of our currency. It continues to be solid and strong. We are not going to establish a tourist dollar or any other type of currency. We have respected the operative plan in terms of continental shelf exploration regarding the change in refining patterns and attention given to the Orinoco oil belt as a national project which is a constant challenge to the capability and creative imagination of our technicians and investigators.

You and the rest of the population know of the tremendous success of the mission accomplished by the energy minister and myself before the heads of state of the Middle East and North Africa, our partners in OPEC, and also in Colombia, Panama, Ecuador and Peru. Venezuela has spoken very clearly. Venezuela is aware of the load that the price increase puts on the feeble economies of developing countries that do not produce oil. Venezuela, conscious of the unrest, shock and resentment that the price increase is causing to those friendly sectors, has resumed the campaign for the establishment of an OPEC financing fund. Our proposal to have uniform oil prices is now receiving more support so that commercialization of this product is more dependable.

We are aware of the strategic value of our oil, since the United States and Canada depend on us as a sure oil supplier, and also of our obligation to international social justice derived from the production and exportation of this so far irreplaceable raw material. Concerned over the 12-percent annual increase in the consumption of oil, we have implemented measures and requested the rational use of energy. In the near future we will enforce efficient measures to prevent oil smuggling along the border.

Regarding agriculture, my duty, to put it briefly, is to make an effort to bring prosperity to this field. We know that agricultural production and supply are below the rate of rising local demands. This is not the case in the fields of services and construction. Our agricultural production rates are on the same level as those in underdeveloped countries.

In matters related to long-range planning, I will issue a decree establishing a work team in charge of drafting the general guidelines for medium and long-term agricultural plans. The establishment of goals according to long-term plans based on existing conditions lead us to take economic measures on a short-term basis according to a coherent and integrated plan in order to immediately overcome the structural imbalances affecting development in this field.

POPULATION CONCERNED OVER FALL OF SKYLAB

PA201856 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Text] The pieces of the U.S. space laboratory Skylab could fall on Venezuelan territory, according to NASA scientists. They said Venezuela is in the path of the fall of the huge space laboratory. The fall of this craft is imminent, according to the same sources. The issue is being discussed at the UN Committee on Outer Space. The Venezuelan representative on that committee, Victor Carazo, told the Voice of America that the situation is of great concern to Venezuelans. He said that according to a recent New York TIMES report, it will be impossible to determine the exact place where the pieces will fall, even a few hours before the fall. Carazo alerted Venezuelans to seek refuge under solid roofs and to maintain a constant flow of information on developments. He concluded by urging the creation of joint international assistance in the case of disasters.

ROYO ANNOUNCES BREAK WITH SOMOZA; SCORES DOMESTIC DISORDER

PA190326 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0003 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Speech to the nation by Panamanian President Aristides Royo from the Presidential Palace in Panama City--live]

[Text] Dear Panamanian people, one of the most important characteristics in the exercise and practice of any democracy is freedom. But in freedom there has to be respect for order, life and the property of all citizens. Panama has a real democratic political system, founded on the roots of our nation through a popular, representative and democratic system in which all freedoms established in the constitution and Panamanian laws are guaranteed. But in the exercise of this freedom, freedom of thought, transit, to carry out demonstrations, some abuses against this freedom have been committed in our country, abuses against the people's rights which, according to Benito Juarez, the renowned Mexican statesman, must be respected in order to have peace.

Good Panamanians must be regretting the incidents which took place in our capital as result of a demonstration carried out by National Institute students. This demonstration, which should have been carried out in accordance with the norms of respect established in the constitution and Panamanian laws, ended in the alteration of public order, vandalistic acts and destruction of state property--which is also the property of all Panamanians--and private property. It is a shame to see privately-owned cars burned in the streets. Every Panamanian will be asking why a car owner who is paying for his car in installments, with hardships, who has a car to earn a living for himself and his family, should be the victim of acts carried out by students and in which hoodlums and other elements also participated. For this reason it is important to stress that it is one thing to exercise your freedoms and quite another to abuse that freedom.

During this morning and this afternoon, several subversive acts took place in this capital. Therefore, we have given precise orders to the National Guard that within the bounds of respect of the constitution and laws, of the democratic freedoms established in our country and respected by our government, such regrettable incidents as those which took place this afternoon will not occur again, incidents which caused the death of an innocent citizen who had nothing to do with the objectives or motives of these demonstrations. Several persons were also injured, perhaps persons who had nothing to do with the vandalistic acts carried out today. These acts were carried out against the property of Panamanians, against Panamanian youths and citizens and also against the citizen's conscience which does not care and will never care that students, workers, peasants and Panamanians go to the streets to demand rights, to carry out protests.

However, these rights, demands and protests should never be used to cause the disorders that were staged this afternoon. That is why a democratic system, which fortunately we have in our country, must see that peace, order and respect prevail. It must necessarily demand respect for a democratic system, which should never use fascist acts as those that we unfortunately saw in the streets of our capital. In addition to the orders we have given to the National Guard, of which the institution is fully aware, we want to call on parents, students, teachers--who have a big responsibility toward their students--all sectors in our country to struggle together with the government in trying to prevent these types of incidents. We also want to appeal to those Panamanians who think that they can take advantage of student movements, that they can influence acts of demanding justice or acts of patriotic nature or acts exclusively of a protest nature and turn them into fascist acts, that they can take advantage of or use these activities, to which Panamanians have the right, and turn them into situations of violence, chaos and destruction.

We are very convinced that the Panamanian people at this moment are very much aware, and not because of the more or less seriousness of these incidents, that our citizens must realize that these incidents cannot continue. Because if these vandalistic acts, the abuses against public order, the pillaging, the closing of stores, the destruction of state and private property continue, Panama cannot continue to be a democratic country. Panama will no longer be a peaceful country. Unfortunately, in those countries where the state and society have been indifferent to these incidents, giving them no importance and seriousness, in those nations today tears, mourning and tragedy are the result and, on behalf of a so-called democracy, there is no respect for life, honor or property of citizens. Let us hope that Panamanian society, that our people become aware of this so that incidents as those which occurred today do not ever happen again and we can continue along the broad avenues of peace for which our government definitely has to struggle. But this is also the responsibility and concern of all the Panamanian people.

We also want to make an appeal to all citizens who are in education or the news media to convey, in accordance with the rules of a proper means of informing, this appeal to the heart of all Panamanians so that our democracy, which is recognized by the democratic nations of the world, will not spoil or break. We also want to take advantage of this occasion to announce to the Panamanian people that from our trip to Maracaibo and our meeting with President Luis Herrera Campins, we can tell the Panamanian people not to worry about the oil supply. That friendly country--more than friendly--that sister nation has guaranteed Panama in good time an adequate supply of this fuel which Panamanians must start using more carefully, this fuel whose price will increase at times and we will have to face it. We must not only make rational use of it and of its consumption, but we must also seek--and this will be the government's responsibility together with private enterprise--a new alternate source of energy other than oil, which is traditional among us. In addition to the oil supply guaranteed to our republic, we reached several agreements of an industrial, commercial and educational nature with Venezuela. We will inform the people more thoroughly at the right time.

Finally, as part of this message to the nation, I want to announce to the Panamanian people that at 1600 this afternoon our foreign relations minister, on behalf of the Panamanian Government, delivered a note to the Nicaraguan ambassador in which Panama informs about the severing of relations with the Nicaraguan Government. Our people have great sympathy and great respect for the Nicaraguan people, and also a feeling of brotherhood. Our government cannot continue having relations with the government of Mr Somoza, a government which has been in power for 45 years against the will of the people, who have been massacred and against whom pure acts of genocide are being committed.

We also want to inform that this action was also taken in reply to that request made by more than 8,000 persons of the Committee for a Free and Democratic Nicaragua and to the demand of many Panamanians who were pointing to us that Panama had to say stop to the genocide and to come forward in favor of a democratic Nicaragua and to see that freedom is restored in that country. We are consulting, studying and considering all the alternatives regarding the recognition of the Government of National Reconstruction, which contains the interests of all sectors opposed to the Somoza dynasty and which at this moment is representing Nicaraguan society. That is why we are studying the situation and in time we will let the Panamanian people know of the decision made by the Panamanian Government regarding the Government of National Reconstruction in which all those sectors are participating which have given their blood, martyrs and many tears to fight the dynasty which has ruled that country for 45 years. Thank you. [applause]

COMMENTATOR ANALYZES OFFICIAL U.S. POSITION ON NICARAGUA

PA201528 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[News analysis by Mario Velasquez]

[Text] It is evident that President Jimmy Carter's government is misinformed about the true nature of the Nicaragua problem, the degree of popular rejection of Somoza and the size of the support and international solidarity the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has won. One could say that the Carter administration has so far not formulated a policy on the Nicaraguan crisis. Washington is drifting between the influential conservative forces in the U.S. Congress, who are demanding continued support for Somoza, and the moral obligation to comply with the human rights policy proclaimed by President Carter. Furthermore, the U.S. Government, deeply worried over the possibility of an FSLN government, which Somozist propaganda has labeled communist, has been unable to set up any political formula to replace Somoza. It has not been able to or has not wanted to because, I believe, the architects of U.S. diplomacy in the State Department have not given up the idea that Somoza might reconsolidate his dynastic regime.

I would not be surprised if during the past 17 months of the deepening Nicaraguan crisis and the obvious deterioration of the Somoza government the CIA specialists, who prepare daily confidential reports for the President on world crises, may have told him that Somoza has many more years of power left. This occurred in the case of Iran last year when, 5 months before the fall of the shah, a CIA report to Carter said the Iranian monarch would be in power for many more years.

Following the fighting in Esteli and other Nicaraguan cities last September, the United States promoted mediation but deliberately excluded the FSLN. Weeks became months, and Somoza played with this proposal and rejected all formulas for conciliation proposed by the U.S., Guatemalan and Dominican Republic ambassadors. Thus compromised, the United States could not force Somoza to accept even an internationally supervised referendum whose results the dictator would have to respect. There was a lack of definition in U.S. diplomacy then. If during the final months of last year Somoza had agreed to the weak mediation Washington was promoting, the resulting government could have excluded the Sandinist Front, as the State Department and several Latin American foreign ministries had figured.

In these distressing and bloody months of 1979, of constantly escalating violence in Nicaragua, the United States has been merely another spectator of the tragedy. It does not like the Sandinist Front and is worried that the Cuban experience might be repeated, but the absence of a true strategy and the leadership vacuum in the management of its foreign policy have prevented Carter from adopting a position on the crisis, which is increasing day by day. Meanwhile the Sandinist Front was stepping up its armed action, widening its base of support at all levels of society and was gaining a broad and effective international solidarity. This international solidarity has permitted the Sandinist Front to make a qualitative change into the armed conflict, turning it into a true civil war and establishing several stable fronts.

A week ago the Andean Pact countries promoted another mediation effort, but this failed when Somoza rejected every initiative for a solution that did not include his remaining in power through 1981. However, Somoza's stubbornness and the failure of this mediation effort was clear diplomatic victory for the Sandinists when the Andean Pact countries decided to recognize the Sandinist Front as a belligerent force under the Geneva Conventions. The military and diplomatic accomplishments of the Sandinist Front have led the U.S. State Department to change its position. In what has been labeled as abandoning a previous policy, an administration spokesman said yesterday that the Sandinist guerrillas have a right to participate in the general solution of the Nicaraguan crisis. The same spokesman said the United States hopes for establishment of a broad-based democratic government, which should be understood as the establishment of a government without Somoza.

It is believed that the new U.S. position, which is much more realistic and flexible, reflects the weakening of Somoza's military position and is closer to those sectors in Latin America who have condemned the Somoza government. The State Department spokesman went so far as to say that the provisional government junta announced by the Sandinists clearly will play a role in a political solution. In another U.S. maneuver directed toward moving away from Somoza, Washington ignored the military governments who asked that the Nicaraguan crisis be discussed under the Rio Pact and opted for holding the debate at the OAS, where a two-thirds majority seems to exist in favor of adopting specific measures to provide an immediate political solution to the Nicaraguan problem.

Nevertheless, in the fulfillment of this new policy, the State Department has very little time left because the political and military events in Nicaragua are overwhelming U.S. diplomacy. However, one cannot underestimate the value and importance of the U.S. initiatives that show its interest in a new Nicaraguan government within the framework of a democratic system, as well as the warning to Somoza contained in those diplomatic initiatives. Somoza, who appears to have fallen from grace in Washington, just as the shah's regime lost U.S. support when much more important economic and geopolitical interests were at stake.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE OVER COST OF LIVING, MISSING STUDENT

PA181906 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jun 79 PA

[Text] National Institute students today led a peaceful demonstration in front of the Education Ministry to protest the high cost of living and to demand information on the status of the investigation by the authorities into the death of student Jorge Camacho, killed during the university disturbances on 14 Jun 1978. The students left their school carrying a Panamanian flag and a large picture of the slain student, went to Cinco de Mayo Plaza and then continued on to the Education Ministry where they shouted slogans against the government and the high cost of living. From there, they proceeded to the attorney general's office, where the students began hurling rocks at the building, breaking windows and seriously damaging an automobile parked in front of the ministry.

The National Guard's Panama police section promptly appeared and dispersed the students with teargas in an effort to restore order. Following these incidents, the students marched toward Central Avenue, where they proceeded to empty garbage cans on the street. This prompted many merchants in the sector to close their stores and lower the security screens on their display windows and doors. Today's demonstration took place after the Education Ministry decided to reopen schools which had been closed in view of last week's disturbances in this city and in Colon protesting the rise in the price of fuels. The confrontations with the police extended to several points along Central Avenue and ended at Avendia de los Martires and J Street, in front of the Gran Morrison stores. There were no reports of injuries, but two official vehicles were set on fire and several windows broken.

More Disturbances; One Death

PA191453 Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English 19 Jun 79 pp A-1, A-7 PA

[Text] At least one person was officially reported dead, and 30 others injured--13 seriously--as the aftermath of yesterday's disorders by students and hoodlum groups, which swept Panama City for more than seven hours. Dying at the Santo Tomas Hospital shortly after admittance was Marciano Valencia Abrego, 46, driver of a large bus, who was dragged out of his vehicle at "J" Street and beaten by furious mobs. Central Avenue, from the Calidonia area to Santa Ana Plaza in downtown Panama City, was a veritable "no man's land," particularly during the afternoon hours, when students and adult troublemakers threw rocks at the National Guard's riot squads, burned and turned over vehicles and broke into at least one government office.

The disturbances began at around 9 am when students from the National Institute first marched on the Ministry of Education to protest the high cost of living, then went to the attorney general's headquarters to voice their dissatisfaction over the investigation involving the death of two students at the University of Panama last year. Jorge Camacho and Demostenes Rodriguez died June 14, 1978 during a clash on the university campus between student factions favoring and opposing the new Panama Canal treaties.

The students then suddenly began to hurl stones at the building and at the attorney general's vehicle, smashing windows and forcing employees within to scurry for cover. National Guard units quickly arrived on the scene and dispersed the students with teargas. They then regrouped along Central Avenue, smashing windows of commercial establishments, forcing them to quickly close down. Two government vehicles were burned and several others overturned.

At this point the student ranks became swollen by hoodlums and leftist-leaning elements who wreaked havoc not only along Central Avenue but in most side streets and extending to the Fourth of July Avenue. Unofficial but reliable reports disclosed that four guardsmen were beaten by mobs on "B" Avenue and their weapons taken away from them. Another guardsman was said to have been wounded later by gunfire coming from a building in the same area. A Housing Ministry department located on the groundfloor of one of the multifamily buildings on "B" Avenue was invaded by mobs who manhandled employees and smashed furniture and equipment.

Two television newsmen had to seek shelter in the Canal Zone near Fourth of July Avenue, when mobs in that area resented their filming of the disorders and went after them. Evidence that the student movement was almost completely taken over by hoodlum elements was the number of arrests reported up to 4 pm. Fifteen students were in custody charged with stoning authorities and overturning vehicles. More than 35 others were arrested, including some with long police records for terrorism. These are being charged with vandalism and looting.

By 6 pm, the National Guard patrol and motorized units appeared to have the situation under control, and began to clean up pockets of rioters in several areas of the city. The Ministry of Education, last night, ordered the National Institute closed "until a climate of tranquility and respect that would guarantee adequate development of scholastic activities is achieved." Colon City was relatively quiet yesterday, despite rumors that a student said to have been killed during last week's disturbances on the Atlantic side, was being buried in the afternoon. There was no official confirmation, however, from school or government sources that the student's death was actually the result of the Colon riots.

Guard Incident at University

PA191521 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1433 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Report by telephone by Prof Miguel Antonio Bernal from University of Panama--live]

[Excerpts] National Guard troops have entered the university campus, violating the almost nonexistent university autonomy. The National Guard is acting with truly regrettable cruelty. We are at the University of Panama Law School, where the students are afraid and alarmed. We were holding our class and had to leave the classroom because of the tear gas. We saw the National Guard beating students with rubber hoses. The students are fleeing through nearby streets. We fear this is going to become serious. There is a lot of tear gas. National Guard trucks are entering the university, and we cannot leave. The students had been in class peacefully, and there was no violence, but we understand there were incidents at the nearby arts and crafts school, but the National Guard entered the university, throwing tear gas and beating the students.

COSTA RICA

EVERTZ BLAMES CARAZO GOVERNMENT FOR NICARAGUAN WAR

PA202159 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 19 Jun (LATIN)--Gonzalo Evertz, the Nicaraguan National Guard general who commanded the military zone on the Costa Rican border, strongly criticized President Rodrigo Carazo's government today, blaming it for the violence in Nicaragua. Evertz, who was recently wounded during the fighting against Sandinist guerrillas in Leon, told Managua television channel 6, during a telecast monitored here, that he would have bombed this capital if the had had the power to do so in order to teach Costa Ricans what war can mean in terms of sorrow and difficulties.

After describing Costa Ricans as "wolves," Evertz said that Carazo's government is responsible for the violence in Nicaragua. He also assailed the governments of Panama, Venezuela, Mexico, Colombia and other countries for allegedly helping the Sandinist movement.

Evertz left Leon 3 days ago after being trapped in the National Guard garrison in that city for several weeks. Meanwhile, Radio Sandino, the Sandinist rebels' clandestine station, said that the city is completely under Sandinist control and that a local government is already being organized there. The civil defense committees organized by the United People's Movement have opened several bakeries and a milk processing plant. They have also begun distributing food to the people, it added. In addition, instructions have been issued to remove corpses and adopt the necessary measures to avoid epidemics.

The station asked Leon's inhabitants to dig trenches and build shelters to keep Sandinist fighters from dying during the bombings that Somoza's air force will carry out in the next few hours. Radio Sandino added that all young men and women must join the guerrilla units to prevent the Nicaraguan National Guard from seizing the city and murdering the civilian population in a possible counteroffensive.

The organization of the municipal government is in response to the appeal made by the provisional Government of National Reconstruction that was installed in San Jose a few hours ago, the station said.

PRESIDENT CARAZO POSTPONES TRIP TO EUROPE

PA191441 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Text] President Rodrigo Carazo has withdrawn his request for permission to leave the country. The deputies' pressure seems to have had its effect. When the president initially requested permission to travel to Europe at a time of national crisis, there was great opposition in the Assembly. President Carazo has sent an official telegram to the Assembly president withdrawing his request for permission to leave the country in view of the Nicaraguan situation. According to the presidential telegram, the trip to Europe has been postponed.

Most legislators yesterday afternoon praised the president's decision to postpone his trip until the situation with Nicaragua is resolved. Liberation Deputy Arias Sanchez disagreed with his fellow deputies, indicating that a lengthy trip by Carazo would be beneficial for Costa Rica.

EL SALVADOR

PRESIDENT TO REQUEST 30-DAY EXTENSION OF STATE OF SIEGE

PA202102 Paris AFP in Spanish 2015 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 20 Jun (AFP)--It was reported here today that Gen Carlos Humberto Romero's government will ask Congress to extend for another 30 days the state of siege originally decreed in El Salvador from 23 May until 23 June. Romero believes that the country has still not returned to normal following the May events and; therefore, it needs a legal instrument to establish normalcy, and that means is the state of siege law.

GUATEMALA

PRESIDENCY SECRETARY DENOUNCES INTERNATIONAL PLOT

PA200132 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0245 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 Jun (LATIN)--The Guatemalan Government today exposed the existence of an international plot against it by specific political sectors. Carlos Toledo Vielman, presidential public relations secretary, voiced the charge when he handed out a document entitled "Declaration by the Government of the Republic" at a press conference this afternoon in the National Palace's banquet hall. Toledo Vielman, who was recently the target of a terrorist attempt when a bomb was thrown against the wall of his home, said the government will subsequently reveal the results of its investigations. The document says that the government, after a serious and careful study based on information and specific facts in its possession, has decided to reveal the existence of a well-coordinated international maneuver by sectors of marked political leanings and affiliation (they were not fully identified) which, sponsored by anti-democratic and totalitarian organizations, are irresponsibly trying to blame the government for actions it has not made and would never do, with the insane intention of discrediting Guatemala and confusing world opinion by spreading falsehoods or alleged reports of something the country has not done. As a result of this ignominious and orchestrated campaign, which is part of a well-conceived international plan to undermine the democratic system, the government charges that those sectors have put into effect a publicity campaign of systematic accusations to discredit the country, making illegitimate and slanderous statements in both foreign and national media, and taking advantage of the media's good faith and international public opinion.

The secretary showed newsmen a thick batch of press clippings and mentioned NEWSWEEK magazine, the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, EL NACIONAL of Costa Rica and others, as well as other media which have carried what he termed lies. The government document says that although the government has repeatedly made public its clear and firm policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other states, the national and international conspirators, in an alliance which they cannot hide because of their known totalitarian political tendency, are irresponsibly and persistently seeking, without any foundation, to involve the Guatemalan Army in the problems of other countries, such as Nicaragua, deliberately ignoring the functions which the constitution clearly assigns the army. The document adds that a clandestine radio station operating in Central America (a clear reference to Radio Sandino) is spreading baseless reports seeking to compromise our army in some way, despite the serious efforts it is making to contribute to Guatemala's social and economic development in activities such as developing the northern belt (a project to incorporate the north into the nation's economy), developing cooperatives, helping in disasters through the National Emergency Committee, and promoting health tours for the direct benefit of the people.

The statement then refers to the abominable and irrational assassination of army Chief of Staff Gen David Cancinos and other criminal actions which the enemies of democracy have carried out and seek to continue, aimed not only at causing provocations and chaos, but also closely connected--due to the evil ends they seek--with the international maneuver exposed by the government.

Further on, the government categorically rejects the unfounded and irresponsible declarations of these sectors which claim that Col Oscar Castaneda, the Guatemalan military attache to Nicaragua, was involved in the internal affairs of that country.

The government then alerts the public, asking it not to be misled by the falsehoods of those groups, which make violence the means to attain power so as to later enslave people and deprive them of their basic liberties.

In concluding, the document asserts that by publicly denouncing this slander campaign linked to a well-planned conspiracy and carried out by extremist groups with international support, the Guatemalan Government attests to its absolute respect for the internal affairs of other countries and asks for the same treatment of nonintervention in affairs pertaining exclusively to Guatemalans.

HONDURAS

ARMED FORCES DENY REPORTS ON CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP

PA210038 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2355 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Jun (ACAN-EFE)--This afternoon, the Honduran Armed Forces denied that there would be any changes made in the Honduran Air Force and the military government junta. The newspaper LA TRIBUNA reported yesterday that air force Col Domingo Alvarez Cruz, commander in chief of the air force and member of the military junta, would be removed from both posts and even mentioned the names of possible replacements.

"Col Domingo Alvarez Cruz remains in his posts as commander in chief of the air force and member of the military government junta," said an army communique. It added that it has been stated repeatedly that any change in military commands is within the jurisdiction of the armed forces and, in every case, is made according to the needs and conveniences of the service without any other consideration. Therefore, the armed forces are solely responsible for their own internal affairs and, for reasons of national security, their military decisions cannot be questioned, concluded the communique.

GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS TO SUSPEND RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

PA200247 Paris AFP in Spanish 2242 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Jun (AFP)--Honduran Foreign Minister Roberto Palma Galvez said here today that Honduras does not intend to suspend diplomatic relations with the Nicaraguan Government. He added that the Honduran Government cannot take sides in the Nicaraguan conflict because our policy is one of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries and we will maintain this condition of neutrality under any circumstance.

However, the Honduran foreign minister said that his country will continue receiving and caring for the Nicaraguan refugees because this is a humane commitment and a responsibility established in international agreements.

NICARAGUA

NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION GOVERNMENT REJECTS U.S. PROPOSAL

PA201938 Paris AFP in Spanish 1924 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 20 Jun (AFP)--The members of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua rejected here today the U.S. proposal that creation of a new government of conciliation be negotiated with the participation of representatives of the current Somozist regime. The United States will propose at the OAS consultative meeting in Washington tomorrow that representatives from five countries be sent to Nicaragua to negotiate creation of a conciliation government, it was reported from Washington today. The members of the Government of National Construction, which was established here on Monday with representatives of all sectors of the Nicaraguan opposition, reiterated that in the OAS they will ask for international isolation of the Somozist regime. Only the departure of Somoza and his accomplices, they stressed, can take Nicaragua out of its crisis.

Communique Issued

PA210354 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Jun 79 PA

[Text] The Government of National Reconstruction issued Communique No 2 today (?in Nicaragua) stating: The Government of National Reconstruction informs the public, at home and abroad, that it maintains its intention of guaranteeing all foreign lives and property in the country after the downfall of Anastasio Somoza's regime. The Government of National Reconstruction replies in this manner to questions made [words indistinct] by the U.S. Government and presented through the Panamanian Government. Our government is one of order and justice and wants to make it very clear to the whole world that it will abide by the universally accepted principles of equity and reason. The communique says that after Somoza's downfall, the state will [words indistinct] the interests of the dictator and all those who, under his regime of corruption and murder, enriched themselves and amassed fortunes.

Communique No 3 to Nicaragua and the world says: The Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction defines its attitude toward new proposals for mediation and conciliation with the genocidal dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza, which could emerge from the 17th OAS consultative meeting to be held in Washington on 21 June 1979. Our government rejects any effort in this respect regardless of where it may originate. Our government, it adds, recognizes the will of the people, which has already been expressed at the cost of their lives and blood. In order to put an end to a bloody and rapacious dictatorship, which has existed in our country for the past 45 years, the people are willing to fight to the end. Our government believes that only the ouster of dictator Somoza and his clique of civilians and military will permit a solution to the crisis, sorrow and destruction now existing in the country. The Nicaraguan government junta adds: No argument by the dictator in favor of his staying in power, or that of any of his staying in power, or that of any of his accomplices is valid at this time. The whole world knows what the majority of the Nicaraguan people, who have not bowed, surrendered or sold out in spite of the most horrible genocide ever seen in America, want to achieve.

The Government of National Reconstruction reminds the OAS foreign ministers that the report from the Inter-American Human Rights Commission clearly and emphatically shows that Anastasio Somoza and his accomplices have remained in power only by massacring the Nicaraguan people.

The 17th OAS consultative meeting can read this report and decree the isolation of the genocidal dictatorship [words indistinct] and the American solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. The isolation of Somoza's genocidal dictatorship will prevent more bloodshed, horror and destruction in our country.

RADIO SANDINO OUTLINES BASIS FOR RELATIONS WITH U.S.

Pa201619 Radio Sandino (Clandestine) in Spanish to Nicaragua 1200 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

["El Pensamiento Sandinista" commentary]

[Text] The U.S. Government has issued statements to the effect that it would view with favor the establishment of a broad-based government [words indistinct] announced by the Sandinist Front [words indistinct] is an interesting indication that the U.S. Government has changed its policy toward Nicaragua realistically and positively. We hope these indications will become a reality in the stand to be adopted by U.S. representatives at the OAS meeting scheduled for Wednesday to discuss Nicaragua. Also, this statement, which implies a tacit official break with the moribund Somozist dictatorship, should be accompanied by an end to all kinds of assistance to the genocidal regime and the necessary steps with the dictatorial regimes of El Salvador and Guatemala so that they will stop sending troops and weapons to support the Somoza dictatorships.

If the United States acts according to its statements, we can assure that the relations of the Government of National Reconstruction with the U.S. Government will be very good because we Nicaraguans are friendly and respectful when our sacred and indisputable right to self-determination and our right to exercise our sovereignty and independence is respected. The bases we propose for adequate relations between our respective governments are as simple as that. It seems to us that the U.S. Government is acting in accordance with the feelings and will of the U.S. people who, both at the time of Sandino and today, expressed their support for the Sandinist cause. We hope new mistakes are not made and that it is understood that it is not mere words when we say, "Free Fatherland or Death."

SOMOZA REJECTS IDEA OF OAS MILITARY INTERVENTION

PA202022 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2007 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jun (EFE)--Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza has rejected the idea of an OAS military force being sent to his country to control the civil war there. In an interview granted today to a Buenos Aires radio station, the Nicaraguan president said that "the OAS statute does not contemplate military intervention in Article 59," under which the foreign ministers meeting which opens tomorrow in Washington was convened. Somoza said that "the situation in Nicaragua has been stabilized and the government forces in Managua have begun to reduce to a minimum the pockets of resistance which still exist in the neighborhoods." He indicated that in the city of Leon, where the Sandinist National Liberation Front forces have become strong, the army is continuing resistance at the police central headquarters and the garrison outside the urban area. Somoza said that "in Chinandega the city continues normal activities although we have had some harassment around the city and also in Esteli and Matagalpa." He referred to the southern front where the National Guard is fighting Eden Pastora's troops who are trying to take the important city of Rivas, where the provisional government will be installed. He said that "the situation in Rio Majada has stabilized" and that the enemy was encountered approximately 3.5 km from the border."

Somoza denied reports that his son, a National Guard colonel, had been wounded. "That is a Sandinist rumor," he said, "because they know that Colonel Somoza is one of the most efficient officers in the Nicaraguan army. For this reason they have tried to undermine the soldiers' morale." He also referred to his meeting with the Venezuelan foreign minister on the critical situation in the country and the ways to settle it. Somoza affirmed that he informed the foreign minister of "our position regarding the Andean Pact pronouncement, which we consider interference by the countries which compose it in the internal affairs of Nicaragua. We also pointed out that we are always open to dialog to seek a peaceful and democratic solution to Nicaragua's problem."

GOVERNMENT REJECTS ANDEAN PACT BELLIGERENT STATUS DECISION

PA210434 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0240 GMT 21 Jun 79 PA

[Official Nicaraguan Government declaration released by the presidency's Information and Press Secretariat on 19 June 1979, read by unidentified individual--recorded]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has made due consideration of the official declaration released by the republics of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela--all of them members of the Andean Pact--by which on 16 June they decided to accord a belligerent status to the subversive groups currently fighting our legitimately constituted government. The position adopted by these countries cannot be regarded as anything but an action against the Nicaraguan Government and as clear evidence of partiality in favor of the subversive groups currently trying to overthrow the constitutional government, with foreign aid, in order to establish a Marxist-Leninist regime contrary to the democratic and republican system under which the Nicaraguan people have traditionally lived.

The Nicaraguan Government cannot accept the reasons which apparently motivated this decision by the Andean countries because, according to international public law, irregular groups do not meet the requirements for being accorded a status of belligerence. That is:

1. They have not permanently conquered a portion of the national territory.

2. They do not exhibit the elements of a regular government, which would in fact exercise rights or actions of apparent sovereignty over some part of the Nicaraguan territory.

3. The subversive groups and mercenary brigades currently fighting the regular army are not abiding by the customs, laws and traditions of war.

4. The irregular groups have not proclaimed their intention to abide by and respect the existing international commitments and rules of international law.

In view of these considerations, the Nicaraguan Government emphatically rejects the belligerent status accorded to the rebels and feels that this decision, far from leading to a diminution of the fighting and alleviating the Nicaraguan people's suffering, is an element tending to aggravate this crisis, which can only be resolved through peaceful and democratic solutions taking into consideration respect for existing international commitments, the state's right to exist, and the inalienability of national sovereignty.

The Nicaraguan Government also feels that the Andean Pact countries' appeal to other countries urging them to endorse this pronouncement and accord a belligerent status to the rebels is evident interference in its domestic affairs and poses a threat to its sovereignty.

On this occasion, as on so many previous ones, the Nicaraguan Government wishes to reiterate its intention to seek and find a peaceful solution to the country's current political crisis and declares that it will not scrimp in its efforts to restore the peace and tranquility of the Nicaraguan family.

Managua, Nicaragua

19 Jun 1979

Press and Information Secretariat of the presidency

U.S. NEWSMAN REPORTED KILLED IN MANAGUA BY GUARDSMEN

PA201718 Paris AFP in Spanish 1657 GMT 20 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 20 Jun (AFP)--U.S. newsman Bill Stewart of ABC was killed today in Managua by members of the Nicaraguan National Guard, it was reported here today. Stewart's body was taken by fellow journalists to the Intercontinental Hotel.

Somoza Expresses Condolences

PA210102 Paris AFP in Spanish 0042 GMT 21 Jun 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 20 Jun (AFP)--President Anastasio Somoza said here today that those responsible for the death of U.S. newsman Bill Stewart and his Nicaraguan interpreter, Juan Espinoza, killed this morning by soldiers, will be court-martialed. Speaking at a particularly tense press conference, General Somoza expressed his profound condolences for the sad and tragic accident.

Ken Lukoff, producer of the U.S. television ABC network for which the murdered newsman worked, read a vigorous protest of the tragic incident to President Somoza. The protest was signed by the 100 foreign correspondents covering the war in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan president replied: "I find myself compelled to receive this protest and can assure you that is was an isolated incident. An exhaustive investigation will be carried out and those guilty will be punished." Visibly nervous, Somoza also asked for a copy of the film taken at the scene by Stewart's companions, "which I suppose has been shown in the United States and other parts of the world. This film will be used in the investigation."

Asked by a newsman about the massacre of the civilian population in Managua and other cities by the Nicaraguan Air Force, General Somoza replied: "I feel very badly about it but you must know that the people are being held hostage by the guerrillas and are compelled to remain with them." After saying that it was a very difficult situation, General Somoza stated that, in order to avoid killing innocent people, they are making radio and television appeals to the people to evacuate the zones before they are bombed. He then said that he was very sorry, that the guerrillas are holding the people as hostages against their will.

A newsman then said that while in the second most important Nicaraguan city, 90 km east of the capital, he saw that the people were not being kidnaped by the guerrillas and were remaining with them willingly. General Somoza replied: "This shows you that the people who side with the rebellion suffer the consequences of war."

RADIO REPORTS PROGRESS OF FIGHTING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

[Editorial Report WA/PA] Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish at 0843 GMT on 20 June reports that the government forces "today set a new pace for the decisive counterattack" by troops with artillery and aviation support aimed at dislodging "some 300" FSLN fighters entrenched in southern Managua. In El Dorado, the transmission adds, "it seems the National Guard wants to clear the area to keep the airport operational." Citing residents of Rivas, the station notes that soldiers there are being harassed by snipers "who are apparently expecting the arrival of a Sandinist column." It also says that according to a National Guard communique, about 700 FSLN guerrillas were halted the night before 3 km north of Sapoa. According to San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1200 GMT on 20 June, "Rivas might fall in the next few hours"; heavy fighting is underway there and intensified in Masaya and El Dorado neighborhood of Managua the night before.

San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1445 GMT says that according to "a ranking government source," reinforcements left the infantry school for eastern Managua the night before. "We hope to conclude the operation in Managua today, the source added." Citing "reliable sources," the broadcast adds that guerrillas are leaving Managua for Rivas, and the Sandinists announced an important offensive near La Virgen in southern Rivas. The same station at 1730 GMT reports "merciless bombing" of poor neighborhoods in the vicinity of El Dorado in Managua today, prompting thousands to flee.

According to an FSLN report carried by San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish at 1730 GMT, "several neighborhoods in Esteli were bombed yesterday afternoon," while the National Guard in Esteli sustained 10 casualties, and its last armored vehicle in the city "was rendered inoperative." The communique also says that in El Dorado, FSLN forces arrested National District Prosecutor Raimundo Romero Chavez. Panama City ACAN in Spanish at 1947 GMT on 20 June reports that according to the FSLN, "the main garrison, the last bastion of the Nicaraguan army in Leon, fell at 0730." According to the "war bulletin," garrison commander Gen Ariel Arguello was killed, as was guerrilla Commander "Abel," who led the action.

Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 0212 GMT on 21 June carried a National Guard communique, which reports an operation in Rivas by the Bravo task force, "whose mission is to incapacitate the invaders from the international brigades of communist mercenaries and to expel them from" Nicaragua, which inflicted over 20 cacualties and seized arms and ammunition, forcing "the invaders" to flee.

JUNTA MEMBER RAMIREZ INTERVIEWED ON CURRENT SITUATION

PY202120 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 20 Jun 79 p 14 PY

[By special correspondent Mario Stilman]

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica--One of the basic objectives of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, which is operating in this capital, is to seek a broad international--or more specifically Latin American--consensus to obtain recognition which will allow it to establish its headquarters somewhere in Nicaragua "once Anastasio Somoza is overthrown."

Meanwhile, battles between Sandinistas and members of the National Guard rage throughout Nicaragua.

On these two fronts the government junta, which is made up on five persons representing all leanings, has the support of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and states that another of its basic objectives is "to implement a truly democratic system."

Three of its members are currently in San Jose carrying out the international policy whose first step was achieving official acknowledgement from the Organization of American States by sending priest Miguel Descoto as ambassador to this organization. They hope this will allow them to participate in the talks of the consultative body which the United States urgently requested yesterday.

Violeta Chamorro, widow of the late opposition journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro; engineer Alfonso Robelo, representative of the Broad Opposition Front (FAO); and Dr Sergio Ramirez, member of the Group of 12, which is the political leadership of the National Patriotic Front (FPL), are working to evaluate the development of the armed struggle and to carry out the steps necessary for the implementation of the new government.

Meanwhile Moises Hassan, construction engineer, representative of the United People's Movement and member of the Executive Board of the FPL, and Daniel Ortega, member of the FSLN National Joint Directorate, are currently fighting somewhere in Nicaragua.

CLARIN interviewed Dr Sergio Ramirez in his capacity as a member of the temporary government in exile whose members have accepted the proposal of Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio. [sentence as published]

[Question] A State Department spokesman has announced that the possibility of armed intervention in Nicaragua has not been discarded. Is the new government prepared to cope with a situation of this kind?

[Answer] It is certainly a possibility. The United States could launch an armed intervention, especially in view of the many pressures applied by different U.S. political sectors on James Carter to get him to support Somoza in a more decisive manner. Remember that a large group called the Committee for Freedom and Justice of the Americas paid for a full-page advertisement in the New York TIMES demanding a radical change in what it views as hostility toward Somoza's regime. However, although intervention is a possibility, I believe it is very unlikely for two reasons. First of all, the United States is currently in the midst of the preelectoral period and Carter has his reelection at stake. If he sends the "marines" he will set himself against the liberal group headed by Kennedy who, on the other hand, I believe has a better chance of being elected than Carter. Secondly, if there is armed intervention in Nicaragua this country will become the cauldron of tensions in Latin America.

[Question] Do you believe the conflict could become general?

[Answer] Although so far the war is against Somoza alone, we know that there are Bolivian, Colombian, Venezuelan and Panamanian volunteers fighting in Nicaragua. But there could be something which the Americans call a "task force" [given in English], which is viewed with favor by sectors of the Pentagon, the CIA, the State Department and the National Security Council. [paragraph continues]

If you still have some doubts, just remember that most North Americans think along the lines of John Wayne.

[Question] What is your opinion on U.S. recognition of the Sandinists?

[Answer] I believe it is a veiled recognition, but it has far-reaching significance because the State Department not only accepts the existence of Sandinism, but by doing so acknowledges the temporary government junta. At the same time it gives the cold shoulder to Somoza. I believe that some people in the United States have closed the Somoza chapter.

[Question] However, the State Department has indicated that all elements of Nicaragua's opposition should be represented in the government junta....

[Answer] The fact is that the United States cannot accept what Sandinism proposes. But it is wrong because the government junta does represent all leanings. Do you know, if one really starts thinking one would have to ask: What does the United States have to do with us? But it certainly exercises an enormous influence in this hemisphere and there is no doubt that it has, unfortunately, participated in Nicaraguan affairs for the past 150 years.

[Question] It would seem that the United States cannot accept the participation in the government junta of a fighting Sandinista like Daniel Ortega. Is this the case?

[Answer] Yes. But we have still another fighter in the junta: Moises Hassan of the United People's Movement and the FPLN, which is supported by approximately 20 popular organizations. The United States fears that these two Sandinistas will force a communist government. In our case, however, this is not possible because we are realists and know the ground on which we tread.

[Question] But did you not discuss the inclusion of these two Sandinistas since you knew they could become negative elements in your quest for international recognition of the new government?

[Answer] We discussed it a great deal and reached two conclusions: It is evident that great fear is elicited by including a guerrilla commander as a member of the government, but we were much more concerned by internal stability. The great majority of the Nicaraguan people are Sandinists and they would have seen treason in their movement's non-representation in the government. Those who are giving their lives to end 45 years of oppression could not be disappointed. However, barring a few, the meaning of Sandinism is not well known. Sandino was a deep-rooted Christian and a nationalist. We follow his ideals. I believe this precludes any further polemics. Besides, the democratic governments which support us have not viewed the presence of Sandinistas in the government as such a terrible thing.

[Question] What is your opinion on the fact that military governments such as those of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia also recognize and support the struggle of the Sandinistas?

[Answer] These countries have very interesting domestic political processes. [paragraph continues]

Ecuador, for example, will put a civilian in power on 10 August, and Roldos recently stated his support for Sandinism. Besides, there has been a lot of domestic pressure in favor of severing relations with Somoza. Peru is in the midst of an important parliamentary process. The constituent assembly holds debates and the country's political parties realize that there must be a democratic government in Nicaragua. Something similar is happening in Bolivia. As for the armed forces currently governing, they are aware of an academic, a professional meaning in the military activity which is far more important than any political decision. Thus they view Somoza as someone who has corrupted the army as an institution.

[Question] Domestically speaking you belong to the Group of 12. What is the basic ideological element that moves you to join Sandinism?

[Answer] Besides acknowledging the fact that Sandinism is a popular movement in Nicaragua and that it can be compared to no other American guerrilla organization because it is a whole people under arms against Somoza, the Group of 12 has no common ideology with it. The members of the group are intellectuals, industrialists, priests, etc., and they have adopted a strong position against the dynastic regime. Some of the members are deeply Christian but they believe in dynamic Christianity. In sum, we have achieved what we call a "process of consequences" [proceso de consecuencias]. We do not want just a formal change because it will not lead to the true democracy we seek. The people of Nicaragua have paid a very high price and we must "de-Somozacize" Nicaragua.

[Question] What are the points of friction between the various leanings?

[Answer] There are none. If there were any they have been discussed and clarified and as a result we have a government program which we are improving all the time. Even the problems connected with creating an army and expropriating the assets of the Somoza family have been resolved and there are no more differences of opinion.

[Question] Could Engineer Robelo, who represents the FAO, be appointed finance minister? If such was the case could there be disagreements with his economic plan for Nicaragua?

[Answer] As yet we have not discussed the allotment of fields of action. Naturally, since there are five of us, each one will have to take care of a given field of action.

[Question] But the implementation of any given economic model could give rise to important frictions among the various movements.

[Answer] The economy will be divided into sectors: a public sector whose funds will expand significantly thanks to the expropriation of the enormous fortune of the Somoza family, and the private sector. Base industries, those which are necessary for the defense of the nation's patrimony, will be in the hands of the state. However, private economic activities and the appropriate foreign investments will play a crucial role in the gigantic reconstruction before us. We are not sure yet whether we will nationalize the banks because such a step requires a political decision that must be studied in depth.

BREZHNEV STATEMENTS ON SALT II REPORTED

PA191320 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jun 79 PA

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] SALT II, just signed in Vienna, has been described as an important step in strengthening detente and as a promising opening toward arms reductions. It has been noted that the Vienna meeting, the first meeting between Leonid Brezhnev and James Carter, could contribute to better understanding between the two countries. Some aspects of the relations between these two countries had deteriorated recently as a result of intrigues and maneuvers by the most reactionary circles in the U.S. power structure and among other Western powers.

In referring to these acts by the enemies of peace, the Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, said the two sides have the obligation to prevent these schemes from materializing. He noted that the enemies of detente also like to picture new developments in some countries and the people's struggles for independence and social progress as Soviet plots. Brezhnev stated: Of course the Soviet people support the liberation struggles of other nations, and our evaluation of political leadership in this or that country may be quite different from those of certain U.S. sectors. However, the Soviet Union opposes interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and this, he emphasized, is our position of principles.

In reiterating Soviet support for the right of other nations to lead their own lives, the Soviet leader asked: Why do they attribute responsibility for the objective course of history to the Soviet Union? And why use this as a pretext to bury our relations? The enemies of mutual understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union use and abuse the myth of a so-called Soviet military threat. Brezhnev added: Strange as it may seem, the greater the contribution by the Soviet Union to the development of peaceful relations between states, the greater its efforts to limit arms and prevent the danger of another war, the greater lies are told about our policies. Brezhnev states his hope that the realism and foresight of statesmen will eventually win out, especially since millions and millions of citizens from the two countries and the whole world are powerful allies in the search for better relations. The Soviet leader noted that the alleged Soviet military threat is a fabrication by the reactionaries because the Soviet Union has no warlike intentions and does not plan to take any advantage of anything.

Brezhnev stated that not only do the United States and the Soviet Union benefit from peace and detente, but all countries benefit from this. SALT II is a realistic and specific agreement that leads to those achievements. The signing of this important treaty was reported favorably by the European news media. A certain feeling of relief is being felt in the international political scene. It is well known that there is still a long way to go in the difficult task of improving the international climate and there is no doubt that reactionary circles will work against this with new zeal, but there is also awareness of the growing strength of the progressive forces that have made these advances and of the fact that these forces will continue struggling and winning victories in the search for a future of peace for mankind.

UN ASKED TO DISTRIBUTE MINREX STATEMENT ON NICARAGUA

FL202336 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] United Nations--Today Cuba condemned North American attempts to militarily intervene in Nicaragua by using the Organization of American States--OAS--as a cover. Ernesto Lopez Paz, Cuban charge d'affaires to the United Nations, requested today in a note to the president of the UN Security Council that it distribute the statement issued last night by the Cuban Foreign Ministry [MINREX] on the situation in Nicaragua as an official document.

REPORTS ON LATEST EFFORTS TO CONTROL SKYLAB REENTRY

FL202109 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2044 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Today in an unexpected way (Charles Harland), chief of the Skylab mission of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced that the effort to stabilize the space laboratory has been a success and that the module responded to the orders issued from earth. (Harland) added that an attempt will be made to control the reentry into the atmosphere between 7 and 25 July 1979, which is almost certain to occur around 16 July. For some time now North American experts have stated that Skylab, which weighs more than 85 tons, is threatening to fall over densely populated areas on the European or American continents. This is creating great uneasiness in some areas, now, after what have been a large number of sensational reports issued by the Yankees. The North American experts assure that the special laboratory has been controlled and that it is responding to orders.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH SUDAN

FL201021 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] In an effort to promote friendly relations and cooperation between their peoples and countries and guided by the principles of the UN Charter and nonalined countries movement, especially those referring to respect for independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty, the Republic of Cuba and the Democratic Republic of Sudan have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today, 20 June. The two governments will opportunely designate their respective ambassadors.

RESULTS OF ARGENTINE DELEGATION TRADE TALKS REPORTED

FL202228 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Lic Alejandro Estrada, Argentine secretary of state for trade and international economic negotiations, and the delegation accompanying him have studied with Cuban officials situations which are faced and planned for in trade relations between the two countries. Talks with Irma Sanchez, minister-president of the State Committee for Material and Technical Supply, reviewed the trade carried out by the Cuban enterprises belonging to this state committee in the Argentine market. The results showed that this trade can be strengthened and increased for 1980 and later years. It was also decided to exchange trade missions to promote some Cuban exports, among other points. Results of the talks between the Argentine delegation with Raul Leon Torras, minister-president of the Cuban National Bank, could be seen in the plans resulting from the credit facilities granted by the Argentine side, which are a firm foundation for sustained and diversified trade.

SPORTS AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH JAMAICA

FL201924 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1804 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] A technical and economic cooperation agreement was signed today between Cuba and Jamaica for the mutual benefit of the two Caribbean countries. Signing the document for Cuba was Jorge Garcia-Bango, director of the National Institute for Sports, Physical Education and Recreation--INDER-- and president of the Technical and Economic Mixed Commission, and signing for Jamaica was Hugh Small, minister of youth, sports and community development from that fraternal country. Garcia-Bango stated that the signing of this agreement shows that relations between Cuba and Jamaica are strengthening and furthering human and economic development. He added that these agreements are the results of the talks held by the Cuba-Jamaica mixed commission on a social and economic plan for the two fraternal peoples.

Hugh Small, Jamaican minister of youth, sports and community development, has said that the signing of the protocol strengthens the friendship between our two peoples. He added that there are some people who would like to divide us but this agreement shows that the peoples of Cuba and Jamaica are the owners of their own destinies and their free and sovereign will. He pointed out that this cooperation agreement is mutually beneficial for the peoples of Jamaica and Cuba, and that nothing and no one can prevent this. Lastly he said that in the past we did not have this cooperation opportunity, and that this protocol will strengthen the friendship between Jamaica and Cuba. Then he expressed his thanks for the welcome shown his delegation.

Heaven Meets With Cabrizas

FL202257 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] A meeting was held at the Foreign Trade Ministry within the framework of the Cuba-Jamaica mixed intergovernmental commission between Mr. Derrick Heaven, parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, and Comrade Ricardo Cabrizas Ruiz, Cuban vice foreign trade minister. The two sides studied the development of general trade relations and exchanged views which later will be expanded upon. They also dealt with topics of mutual interest in the area of international economic relations.

TANJUG REPORTS ON HAVANA'S PREPARATIONS FOR NONALINED SUMMIT

LD182248 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1601 GMT 18 Jun 79 LD

[Text] Havana, June 18 (TANJUG)--Cuba views the sixth conference of heads of state or government of non-aligned countries as the "most important international gathering" in this country since the victory of the revolution twenty years ago. The special importance of this meeting Havana also sees in the fact that it will be the first non-aligned summit held in Latin America. This also speaks of the universality of the idea of non-alignment, and is to contribute to the further affirmation of the movement, Havana stresses.

It has been reported that Cuba, as the host country, will send draft documents for the summit to all member countries in the first week of July, or two months before the beginning of the summit. Official Havana expects the remarks, supplements and amendments to these drafts to arrive within a month, or by the end of the first week of August. Cuba is naturally expected to take into consideration, while working on the final drafting of the summit's documents, the results and contents of the final document of the non-aligned Coordinating Bureau's recent ministerial session in Colombo, and also the broad consultations its representatives had conducted in 68 non-aligned countries.

Panamanian Envoy Hails Nonalined Summit

FL200117 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] [Unidentified television reporter] We are with Jorge Illueca, ambassador of Panama and permanent representative to the United Nations. He has graciously agreed to an interview with the national television news. Mr. Ambassador, we would like to know what you believe to be the importance of holding the sixth [nonalined countries] summit in Havana, taking into consideration that this type of conference is being held for the first time in a Latin American country.

[Illueca] With the Havana summit the nonalined movement is meeting for the first time in Latin America. The nonalined movement is composed of two-thirds of mankind. Suffice it to say for example, that in India, Indonesia and Nigeria there are more than 1 billion inhabitants in three countries of the Third World which will be [represented] in Havana in a dynamic, participatory and active way. And presiding over this meeting will be a man of great character, an extraordinary character as a statesman, that is commander Fidel Castro. He is a man who has been forged in both physical and armed struggle and in the intellectural struggle. He is a man who has a great responsibility to the Third World and particularly to Latin America.

We know both, you Cubans and we Panamanians, that our continent continues suffering the same problems of tyranny of oppression, misery and ignorance of which Bolivar spoke. It is true that the standard of living is increasing, the standard of living of certain peoples is increasing, but there are great human group which are still at the margin, and on top of this our natural resources are exploited in an unjust way, which the great powers have not been willing to admit.

I would like to end by saying that this is a great happening. We have great faith in what will come out of Havana. It is a great responsibility for Cuba and Latin America because it is being held in Latin America. Panama will be represented here by its president, Dr. Aristides Royo, but all sights, hearts and minds, of Latin Americans will be focused on Cuba, as will be the minds, hearts and feelings of the Third World. Thank you.

HART, MIRET ATTEND CARIFESTA MEETING

FI201209 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Culture Minister Armando Hart Davalos and Pedro Miret, members of the PCC Politburo, last night attended the meeting of the Carifesta 79 organizing committee which was held at the headquarters of the National Union of Cuban Writers and Artists. Vice Minister of Culture Julio Garcia Espinosa announced that to date a total of 19 countries have confirmed their participation in the third festival of the Caribbean creative arts. He added that they will be represented by 1,534 delegates. Twenty-seven personalities representing the culture of Caribbean nations will attend Carifesta 79 as guests of honor, in addition to 28 special guests.

ECONOMIC PLANNING EXPLAINED AT L.A. JOURNALISTS SEMINAR

FI202246 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] The plans to be carried out by the Cuban economy over the long term were explained to the participants attending the Latin American Journalists seminar. Manuel Garcia, vice president of the Central Planning Board, gave the report at the headquarters of the Union of Cuban Journalists. The official stated that beginning in (?1970) economic projections were begun for the future 5-year periods, broken down into yearly periods. The first medium term plan was set up for the 1976-80 5-year plan which was approved in the first PCC Congress for the purpose to set up a material and technical foundation which is indispensible for building socialism and required for Cuba to join CEMA.

Solidarity Resolutions Approved

FL201428 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] A resolution adopted at the Latin American journalists seminar being held in Havana City demands the release of (Ruben Acasuso), secretary general of the Uruguayan Press Association, and all the political prisoners who are victims of the fascist dictatorship in Uruguay. In introducing the draft resolution, Uruguayan journalist (Lenin de los Santos)--who is delegate to the seminar--condemned the bloody dictatorship in his country. A resolution introduced by Puerto Rican delegate (Hector Melendez) also was approved at the Latin American journalists seminar. The resolution is in connection with solidarity with Puerto Rico on its right to self-determination and independence.

CAMAGUEY PROVINCE ENDS SUGAR HARVEST

FL201031 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Camaguey Province has concluded its participation in the current sugar harvest with the second best crop in its history when grinding operations stopped yesterday at the Sierra de Cubitas sugar mill, the last remaining unit in operation in the province. Camaguey Province attained a total production of 878,500 tons of sugar, 1,000 tons more than had been estimated in the production plan. Six of the seven municipalities in Camaguey recorded increases in production, of which the most outstanding were Vertientes, Florida and Minas with a harvest full of efforts in the different agro-industrial factors.

ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTION OF ROSENBERG COUPLE NOTED

FL201329 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1155 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Elena Gil, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Cuban Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples, has attended the ceremony marking the 26th anniversary of the assassination of the Rosenberg couple. Renowned jurist Dr Candelaria Rodriguez lectured on the lives of Julius and Ethel, the Rosenberg couple who were the victims of an unjust death sentence in the electric chair, charged with spying for the Soviet Union. She recalled the world wave of repudiation brought about by the cruel murder perpetrated by the financial oligarchy and McCarthyism in an effort to stop history in name of the false North American justice. Dr. Candelaria Rodriguez noted that the Rosenberg couple died so that their children and all mankind would know and understand that life is worth living.

CANO BLANCO CHAIRS MEETING ON 26 JULY COMMEMORATION

FL201158 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Jun 79 FL

[Text] Miguel Cano Blanco, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Holquin Province, has chaired a meeting on preparations for the 26 July main commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks. During the meeting reports were read on preparations under way, among them those at the plaza where the rally will be held and the hall of exhibits as well as tasks dealing with the embellishment and cleaning of the city and festivities to be hosted by the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution. Other topics discussed were the progress of the sugar harvest and an examination of the pledges made by education and public health workers.

ANTIGUA

GOVERNMENT MISSION TO VISIT TRINIDAD FOR AID TALKS

FL181125 Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 13 Jun 79 p 3 FL

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, 12 June (CANA)--An Antigua Government mission is going to Trinidad next week for aid talks, the government-owned Antigua Broadcasting Service (ABS) has announced. According to the radio, the mission will be headed by Deputy Premier Lester Bird, who is also the island's economic development minister and will include the finance minister, Mr John St Luce. Both men were in Washington for last week's meeting of the Caribbean Group for Economic Development. They will be finalising negotiations for "technical and economic assistance" for Antigua, the radio said.

Recently, the Trinidad and Tobago Government came to Antigua's assistance with TT$3.1 million (US$1.29 million) to refurbish the island's electricity supply system, and the Dr Eric Williams government has announced that Antigua was seeking a further loan of EC$160 million (US$25.9 million). Finance Minister St Luce has been tight-lipped about the loan now being sought in Port-of-Spain.

The twin-island state has been playing a major role in the economic development of the Caribbean. It has recently set up a Caribbean Aid Council (CAC) to make soft loans available to regional countries. The CAC last year approved a TT$12 million (US$4.99 million) loan to Dominica, but the government has indicated that the loan would not now be granted because of the Patrick John administration's alleged approaches to South Africa for assistance.

Last month, the Trinidad and Tobago Government announced a TT$2 million (US$833,333) aid package to St Vincent in the wake of eruptions from the Soufriere volcano. The eruptions had damaged crops and saddled the Milton Cato administration with the job of feeding thousands of evacuees living in emergency shelters. The first phase of the aid programme included the shipping of 300 bags of rice, 30,000 pounds of frozen chicken and 100 bags each of potatoes and onions.

At the end of April, the Trinidad prime minister assigned a memorandum for agreement on economic co-operation with his Barbados counterpart, Mr Tom Adams. The wide-ranging agreement covered areas including transportation, petroleum, trade, education and energy.

BARBADOS

BMA URGES 'END TO TRADE WITH JAMAICA, GUYANA'

FL181150 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jun 79 p 13 FL

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 11 Jun (CANA)--Barbadian manufacturers have called for an end to imports from Jamaica and Guyana until a favourable trade balance with Barbados is restored. At a press conference today, head of the Barbados Manufacturers Association (BMA), Basil Forbes, said local manufacturers could sympathize with Guyana and Jamaica because of their serious financial situation. However, Barbados should not be prepared to assist businessmen who want only to sell them products.

Forbes described the trade imbalance with the two Caribbean Community (CARICOM) partners as "serious," pointing out that the ratio was about 80-20 in the case of Guyana and 75-25 with Jamaica. In 1977, Barbados imported 10.4 million dollars (5.2 million US dollars) worth of Guyana goods. Barbados exports to Guyana for the year totalled 2.8 million dollars (1.4 million US dollars).

Last year Barbados imported 9 million dollars (4 million US dollars) worth of goods from Guyana and imports from Jamaica cost 14 million dollars (7 million US dollars). Exports to Guyana and Jamaica were valued at 3 million (1.5 million US) and 7 million dollars (3.5 million US dollars), respectively.

In 1977 Barbadian imports were on the increase, while exports to Jamaica and Guyana were falling. Statistics released by the BMA showed Barbados importing 9.7 million dollars (4.8 million US dollars) worth of Guyana goods in 1976 and in turn exporting 4.6 million dollars (2.3 million US dollars) worth of goods to Guyana. The same year, exports to Jamaica were valued at 6.4 million dollars (3.2 million US dollars) and imports at 13.8 million dollars (6.5 million US dollars).

Barbados exports to Jamaica and Guyana have been undercut by quantitative restrictions imposed by the two countries in the face of balance of payments problems. "While we can sympathize with the serious financial situation facing Guyana and Jamaica, we are not prepared to assist businessmen who want to sell us and not buy from us, Forbes said. "We should not sit back and allow people to buy from all over the world and then turn to us when they want to sell." Forbes continued: "We have got to guard against being taken for a ride..." The BMA, which gave the cold-shoulder treatment to a recent Guyana trade mission visiting Barbados, is not against Jamaican and Guyanese businessmen staging exhibitions here, but advises importers not to buy their products, Forbes said.

JAMAICA

HUNGARIANS TO BUILD ALUMINA PLANT

FL181130 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Jun 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Construction of a $500-million government alumina plant is expected to begin in South Manchester towards the end of this year. The plant which will have a capacity of 600,000 tonnes of alumina will be build with Hungarian technology. A group of Hungarian technicians arrived in the island on Saturday and are now in the final stage of discussions with the government, the GLEANER understands.

Jamaica Bauxite Mining, Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Jamaica National Investment Company will be the owners of the plant on behalf of the government of Jamaica. The plant will be sited on 2,000 acres of the JBM's holdings in South Manchester. Aluterv-FKI of Hungary which did the feasibility study for the now defunct JAVEMEX project are the design and process engineers and will supervise construction. Hungarian export credit facilities, amounting to some $250 million have already been arranged for the supply of all the equipment necessary for the operation of the project.

Emphasis is being placed on the training and use of Jamaican technicians both of the Jamaica Bauxite Institute and those on the staff of JBM. Jamaican engineers, some of whom are already being trained, will participate in all aspects of the plant from construction to production. It is estimated that more than 1,000 workers will be employed at the peak of construction and just over 600 are likely to be permanently employed when production starts about the end of 1983.

Plant production of 600,000 tonnes will be shared among the Soviet Union (259,000 tonnes) Hungary (150,000 tonnes) and Algeria (150,000 tonnes) with a surplus of 50,000 tonnes. Contacted yesterday the Hon Horace Clarke, minister of mining, confirmed that the Hungarian delegation was here for discussion but would make no further comment.

SEAGA: HOME GUARDS ARMED WITH WEAPONS FROM CUBA

FL181145 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 12 Jun 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Opposition leader Edward Seaga charged yesterday that Home Guards have been armed with weapons from Cuba "as part of the Cuban Government's attempt to maintain the PNP in power." In a statement yesterday, Mr Seaga said: "The JLP opposition has learned that Home Guards have been armed with weapons from Cuba as part of the Cuban Government's attempt to maintain the PNP in power. This support from the communist government of Cuba is in addition to the training of selected members of the police force in special operations and the training of young Jamaicans as brigadistas.

"So far 21 policemen have received specialized training in Cuba that was not available elsewhere. The nature of this training is so secret that the names of the last six policemen sent for training in Cuba last mohth were not published in the force orders as is customary. These names were revealed by me last week in continuation of the JLP's campaign to bring to public attention the communist alliance to betray the interests of the security of the nation in order to attempt to keep the PNP in power. The brigadista training programme has now reached around 1,000 inclusive of those still in training. The Home Guards are to be rapidly built up to a strength of 20,000 men or double the size of the police and Defence Force combined.

"The intention of the PNP government is to use the Home Guards as a PNP squad armed with powers of arrest and Cuban weapons to attempt to terrorize and intimidate JLP supporters into submission. It has already been established that the Home Guard movement includes illiterates and criminals including the notorious spy Albert Robinson who was drafted into the Home Guards by the government despite 16 previous criminal convictions.

"The opposition reaffirms its alarm that the security of the country is being sold out by the infiltration of the security forces by communist Cuban and Russian spies, by communist arms and communist indoctrination in a desperate bid by the PNP to hold on to power. The opposition intends to continue to publicly reveal what it has learned of this subversive alliance so that the people of Jamaica may be aware of the intent of the PNP government and its foreign agents. The people can then decide whether they will allow foreign agents in alliance with the PNP to manipulate them in their own country.

GOVERNMENT REFINANCES OVERSEAS DEBT

FL181120 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Jun 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Government has concluded an agreement with a syndicate of banks for the refinancing over the next two years of some US$126 million owed overseas by the government and its agencies. The deferral and refinancing agreement is for the fiscal years 1979/80 and 1980/81 with a syndicate led by First National Bank of Chicago and the Royal Bank of Canada, the Ministry of Finance said in a release yesterday.

The statement went on: "The agreement provides for the refinancing of commercial external indebtedness of the government of Jamaica and agencies of the government including statutory bodies and publicly owned corporations. The total refinancing is of the order of $126 million (US) of which $66 million would relate to 1979/80 and $60 million 1980/81.

The financing arrangements provide for the deferral of 87 1/2 per cent of external loan maturities falling due in each fiscal year. The amounts outstanding on the 1st of April, 1980 and the 1st of April, 1981, will be refinanced by term loans repayable by 1st of April, 1985 and the 1st of April, 1986, respectively. Both term loans will carry interest at a rate per annum equal to 2 per cent plus the London inter-bank offered rate in force from time to time.

"The banks participating in the financial arrangements numbered some 85 institutions and 100 per cent of the lenders who were canvassed for the refinancing arrangement agreed. These included North American institutions, Japanese banks and European banks. The financing programme will provide foreign exchange support towards debt serving for the fiscal year 1979/80 and 1980/81. It complements the foreign exchange resources which will be provided under the IMF extended arrangements of the order of 260 million SDR's, the World Bank support for the export sector amounting to $30 million (US) and also the resources which are now being sought from friendly countries."

IMF APPROVES LOAN FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM

FL181140 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Jun 79 p 1 FL

[Excerpts] Approval of 260 million special drawing rights (SDR's) to Jamaica, equivalent to approximately (US)$340 million, was given by yesterday's meeting of the board of directors of the International Monetary Fund [IMF] under its extended fund facility arrangements. With the approval of this loan to Jamaica, the IMF board increased by (US)$180 million the sum of (US)$240 million which it initially committed to this island under a three-year loan programme,signed a year ago. Its total loan commitment to Jamaica now stands at approximately (US)$420 million.

The sum of (US)$340 million approved yesterday represents special drawing rights for two years for which Jamaica had applied in a quest for special consideration in order to undertake its programme of economic recovery.

Details of the government's programme of economic recovery to be financed by the IMF loan were announced by Finance Minister the Hon Eric Bell in Ministry Paper No 17, which was tabled in the House of Representatives on May 3. The details which were set out in a memorandum on economic policy formed the basis of this island's presentation to the IMF for the second year of the extended fund facility arrangement, Mr Bell said. Included in the memorandum were government's policies on incomes and prices, polices to stimulate production and fiscal and monetary plans.

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FUND ESTABLISHED

FL151509 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Jun 79 FL

[Text] The Export Development Fund for Jamaica, Limited, becomes operational today. The (?facilities) are a revolving hard currency foreign exchange fund set up through the Bank of Jamaica to help the importation of raw materials, equipment and spare parts by Jamaican manufactures for the making of goods for export (word indistinct). The main funding will come from the World Bank and it will be supplemented by a long-term loan from foreign lenders. The money is being loaned to Jamaican non-traditional exporters and to support purchases of foreign materials, equipment and parts. It will be repaid to the fund out of the proceeds of their exports. The Jamaica Export Development Fund is to be [words indistinct] legal entity owned by the Bank of Jamaica and managed by the Jamaica Export Credit Insurance Corporation.

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